

Jordan Times

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Israeli forces kill Palestinian in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli border police shot dead a Palestinian and wounded another in the town of Khan Yunis in the occupied Gaza Strip on Saturday night, an army spokeswoman said. "During a border police action in Khan Yunis the force was attacked by armed people armed with axes," the spokeswoman said. "The force fired at them and as a result one masked person was killed and the other was injured, treated and arrested." The border police are a paramilitary unit. It was the second time in 24 hours Israeli forces had shot dead a Palestinian who they said attacked them at night. On Friday night, soldiers killed a Palestinian near the West Bank town of Jenin (see story below). Earlier on Saturday, six Palestinians were injured by Israeli army gunfire in the Gaza Strip during mass protests against Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinians.

PLO suspends talks; no decision yet

TUNIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders suspended a meeting on Saturday without deciding whether Palestinian negotiators should go to Washington for a fresh round of Middle East peace talks. PLO sources said the move gave PLO leader Yasser Arafat time to pursue efforts to get the United Nations Security Council to discuss Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories. Jordan, Syria and Lebanon on Saturday postponed the departure of their delegations in protest at Israel's move. Peace talks are due to resume in Washington on Tuesday (see story below). "Our wish is that the Security Council should convene before the Washington meeting on Tuesday and we may have not wait until Sunday to know the results of these consultations and the final stance of the PLO," a high-ranking PLO official said. The PLO Executive Committee will reconvene during the night, the sources said. The PLO appealed to the Security Council to put pressure on Israel to cancel the expulsion orders.

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Omani parliament holds first session

NICOSIA (R) — Oman's new Consultative Council, the Sultan's first tentative experiment with democracy, was sworn in Saturday in its first regular session, the Omani News Agency reported. "The establishment of the Consultative Council... is considered the start of a new era in the course of joint national action," the council's speaker, Sheikh Abdullah Ben Ali Al Qasbi, said in an opening speech. The first session of the 29-member assembly, approved by Sultan Qaboos in November, elected two deputy speakers, and a five-member bureau to run its affairs. The assembly, nominated by the public and chosen after consultation with community elders, has replaced the wholly appointed state consultative council set up in 1981. It held its inaugural session on Dec. 21. Sultan Qaboos authorised the council to review draft economic and social legislation and to present policy proposals. It can also question the work of government ministries and prepare environmental and development plans.

Iranian town gets first snow in 22 years

NICOSIA (AP) — The town of Qasr Shirin and several surrounding villages were buried Saturday in their first snow in 22 years, Tehran Radio reported as an unusual Mid-east blizzard seemed to be fading. The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said up to 85 centimetres of snow blanketed the western Iran region near the Iraqi border. Frosted palm trees, a sight rarely seen, fascinated residents, it said. Floods in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province in central Iran cut off 150 villages from the central town, the radio said. There were no reports of casualties or damage. Severe storms also flooded villages in northern Mazandaran province, off the coast of the Caspian Sea, the radio said. It said several piers in the port of Turkoman and the Gulf of Gorgan were submerged.

Freed foreigners arrive in Kuwait from Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Two American demolition experts and a Filipino businessman held for almost three weeks in Iraq as suspected saboteurs arrived in Kuwait Saturday, Red Cross officials said. Jean-Philippe Lavoyer, who represents the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Kuwait, said the three men were escorted across the Kuwaiti border by ICRC officials Saturday afternoon. Americans David Martin and Jim Adaddell and Filipino Joseph Dumac were exploring the demilitarised zone between Iraq and Kuwait when they were captured. They said after being released in Baghdad they had been exploring the badly-marked frontier to pursue a contract to detonate land mines and blow up damaged oil installations.

British Muslim parliament opens

LONDON (AP) — The unelected Muslim parliament of Britain opened its inaugural session Saturday with a call on the country's two million Muslims to defy any laws they consider hostile. The 155-member assembly is the brainchild of the pro-Iranian Muslim Institute headed by Dr. Kalim Siddiqui, who said he wanted it to take its place among the primary institutions of Britain as the defender of Islamic interests. Moderate British Muslims called the parliament unrepresentative and British politicians denounced its message of separatism. In his inaugural address at Kensington Town Hall in West London, Dr. Siddiqui said: "Let us make it quite clear that Muslims in Britain will oppose, and if necessary defy, any public policy or legislation that we regard as inimical to our interests." The assembly is a democracy, is unaccountable to Western civilization and is dedicated to the same dusty old history that has already swallowed up Marxism, he said. "Islam alone is the antidote to a morally bankrupt and sick world."

Arabs postpone departure for Washington bilaterals

Jordan, Syria and Lebanon join Palestinians in protest against Israeli expulsion decision

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Prospects for the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington to begin as scheduled on Jan. 7 receded Saturday with announcements by Jordan, Syria and Lebanon that they were postponing the departure of their delegations to the talks in protest against the Jewish state's decision to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

The Palestinians, who announced Friday that they were suspending their plans to travel to Washington to attend the talks, were meanwhile seeking United Nations Security Council action to reverse the Israeli decision to expel the 12 Palestinians and pressing for a stronger American role in the Middle East peace process.

The Jordanian delegation was originally scheduled to leave for Washington early Saturday, but an announcement said late Friday (after the Jordan Times went to press) that the departure was postponed. Another statement, issued Saturday evening by the Foreign Ministry, said: "In view of the latest developments resulting from Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinian citizens from their homeland in defiance of international legitimacy represented in the Geneva conventions and United Nations resolutions as well as the Arab desire for peace in the Middle East, the Jordanian government has decided to postpone the departure of its delegation to Washington until further notice."

Informed sources said the decision was taken after close consultations with other Arab parties involved in the peace process,

which was launched in Madrid on Oct. 30 with an international conference sponsored by the United States and the former Soviet Union.

Earlier indications were that Jordan was waiting for the Palestinian delegates, who are attending the peace talks in a joint delegation with the Kingdom, to travel to Amman late Saturday or early Sunday to join their Jordanian colleagues on the trip to Washington.

"The Palestinians have not reached a final decision," said one source referring to an urgent meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee in Tunis.

Reports from the PLO headquarters in the Tunisian capital said the Executive Committee had ended the emergency talks with a decision to allow Chairman Yasser Arafat to continue diplomatic efforts aimed at reversing the Israeli expulsion decision.

Mr. Arafat's efforts would mostly concentrate on the Security Council, sources said. The PLO chairman Friday called for an urgent session of the council to discuss the Israeli expulsion decision but there was no formal response from the world body until late Saturday.

Mr. Arafat was expected to arrive in Syria Sunday in the first leg of a trip which will also take him to Jordan and Egypt.

Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegates, said Friday that the decision to or not to go to Washington rested with the PLO leadership.

The Syrian and Lebanese decisions to postpone the departure of their delegations were announced

by their respective foreign ministries.

"In solidarity with the Palestinian people and as a denunciation of the Israeli government's decision to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories, it was decided to postpone the departure of the Syrian delegation to Washington to resume the peace talks," said the Syrian statement.

The statement was issued after two days of talks between Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa and Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO.

The Lebanese announcement, made by Foreign Minister Faris Bouze to reporters in Beirut, said: "We have postponed the departure of the delegation from (Sunday) and we are going to inform (the United States) in the next few hours."

"Lebanon is taking part in these talks in line with Arab solidarity. There are a number of Arab states and parties who have decided not to attend..." Mr. Bouze said. "Lebanon does not accept to be the one to split Arab ranks."

Jordan meanwhile also reaffirmed its refusal to negotiate with Israel on the Palestinian dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The reaffirmation, made by chief Jordanian negotiator Abdul Salam Majali, was a direct reference to the still unresolved problem resulting from Israel's refusal to negotiate on separate Jordanian and Palestinian tracks.

The first round of formal bilateral talks between the Arab delegations and Israel foundered in Washington last month after the Jewish state sought to shift to Jordan the responsibility of nego-

tiating on behalf of the Palestinians.

Jordan and the Palestinians responded that the joint delegation was only aimed at circumventing earlier Israeli objections and that the Jewish state had to accept the ground rules for the peace process that there were two definite tracks for negotiations — a Palestinian-Israeli track and an Arab-Israeli track.

Dr. Majali, interviewed by Jordan Television Saturday, reiterated that Jordan's position had not changed and that the Kingdom's delegation would not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians.

Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian delegates, Dr. Majali said and expressed hope that Israel would respect the ground rules of the peace process.

"We still not surrender our rights," Dr. Majali said. "We should of course have patience, reason and good faith."

"Peace has to be built brick by brick," he added.

Dr. Majali said Jordan would not interfere in the affairs of the Palestinian people related to the envisaged interim self-rule arrangement "since this issue is of concern solely to the Palestinians and once they reach their decision we will support them."

Dr. Majali underlined the link between the bilateral peace talks and the multilateral Middle East conference scheduled to be held in Moscow Jan. 28-29 by pointing out that the Moscow gathering would discuss regional disarmament, the environment, water problems, joint projects and the

(Continued on page 5)

United Arab position boosts Palestinian call for U.N. role

By Lami K. Andoni

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese decision not to leave for Washington for the next round of Arab-Israeli talks in protest to Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is expected to boost the Palestinian position.

The unified position of the Arab parties, which responded to a request from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is expected to reinforce Palestinian demands for a meeting for the United Nations Security Council to discuss the Israeli measures.

Although Arab and Palestinian officials have indicated that there was no decision, or even an intention, to boycott the next round of the bilateral talks, the Arab parties seem determined to build international pressure on Israel to halt its crackdown on the Palestinians under its occupation.

Arab and Palestinian sources indicated that the Arabs will reconsider their position if there were international steps taken to pressure Israel to rescind its expulsion order and to provide some form of international protection for the Palestinians under occupation.

Arab official statements implied that the Arab participation in Washington talks will mainly hinge on the Palestinian decision.

As one Jordanian official explained, it was the only option since the absence of any Arab party will undermine the very objective that the Arabs are seeking to attain — i.e. a comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It is very a simple formula," explained a Jordanian official. "The aim is to reach a comprehensive settlement. If one party is jeopardised from participating then the other parties cannot attend without undermining this

objective."

Well-informed political observers said that the Arab parties involved were a bit disconcerted by the fact that the Palestinian decision was made prior to consultations with the other Arabs involved.

Nevertheless the stance taken by the Arab parties involved in the peace talks represented the closest coordination reached since the beginning of the peace process in Madrid last October.

According to political analysts, the unified Arab stand was largely due to the firm and determined position called upon by the Palestinian negotiators who echo public opinion in the occupied territories.

"The Palestinians in the occupied territories have emerged as a unifying factor of the Arab position — at least in the peace process," said one analyst.

In more than one way the Arab position, which took the lead from the Palestinian insistence to postpone the trip, has once again underscored the centrality of the Palestinian issue — a point that Arabs felt that Israel was trying to subvert during the first round of the bilateral talks in Washington last month.

PLO sources in Tunis and in Amman did not hide their earlier concerns that they have to secure sufficient Arab support and not be blamed for disrupting the peace process.

PLO officials said that their position was boosted by the Arab position and that they hoped that the Security Council will meet soon.

There were earlier reports that the PLO was considering a compromise but the Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories reported to the headquarters in Tunis that it was almost impossible for the delegation to bridge without achieving a concrete result.

"The PLO cannot risk jeopard-

ising the popular backing of the Palestinian delegation," said one official.

Reuters adds: Palestinian peace negotiators pressed the United States Saturday to prevent the expulsion of Arabs from the occupied territories.

Israel's relations with its key ally, already spiralling downwards, got another sharp knock when the United States was reported to have issued a visa to a senior aide of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian delegate Mamdouh Al Aker told Reuters in Jerusalem on Saturday that the United States had issued an entry visa to Nabil Shaath, a senior Arafat aide.

"It is not a coincidence that it (the visa) comes out today, in addition to (U.S.) condemnation of expulsion. It could be a response to the Israeli expulsion orders," Mr. Aker said.

The PLO is excluded from the Middle East peace talks because Israel refuses to meet it but plays a backstage role directing the Palestinian negotiators.

The United States normally bars PLO officials and rebuffed Arab pressure for an exception when a round of peace talks was held in Washington in December.

Mr. Shaath earlier told reporters in Cairo that "we are not going to boycott the peace talks. We will attend."

Deputy Ghasan Al Khatib said, however, that the United States "must take practical decisions" to stop Israel's expulsions from the occupied territories.

"Perhaps Security Council resolutions with particular steps if Israel did not comply," he suggested.

"We postponed our trip to see how the world would react. We won't necessarily be in Washington. We want to see how the Americans will treat this violation of several Security Council res-

Israel refuses to budge

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel Saturday refused to budge from its decision to expel 12 Palestinians and reacted coolly to the coordinated Arab decision to postpone the departure of negotiators to peace talks with the Jewish state this week.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman, Ehud Gol, responding to the departure delays by Arab delegations, said on Saturday evening: "Israel's position is we are going to the talks as planned and we will be in Washington on schedule."

He said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had called Mr. Shamir and asked him to rescind the expulsion orders to ensure continuation of the peace talks.

Mr. Shamir answered that before each stage of negotiations there were shooting attacks on Israelis in the occupied territories.

"We cannot fail to react and therefore we decided on the expulsions," Mr. Gol quoted Mr. Shamir as saying.

Palestinians took to the streets in the Gaza Strip on Saturday to protest against the planned expulsions. Six were wounded by Israeli army gunfire in widespread clashes, Palestinian sources said.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Friday U.S. pressure would not persuade Israel to go back on its decision to expel 12 Palestinians.

"I don't expect massive American pressure because I have no doubt that the American's know pressure will not help," Mr. Arens told Israel Television's Arabic service.

Mr. Shamir played down U.S. and international criticism of the expulsions.

"I think everyone in the world understands that Israel is doing

(Continued on page 5)

King reviews peace process with O'Connor, Carey

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein met Saturday with two visiting Christian clergymen and discussed prospects of a Middle East peace settlement.

King Hussein held separate meetings with Cardinal John O'Connor of New York and Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey at the Royal Court, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Cardinal O'Connor heard His Majesty's evaluation of the Middle East peace process and expressed hope for its success. Petra said.

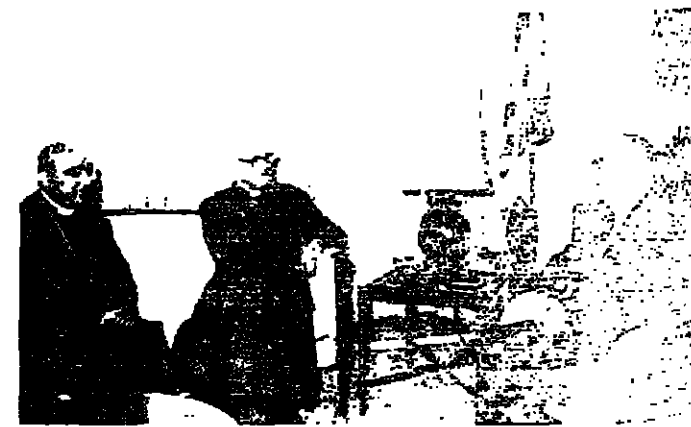
The Roman Catholic prelate arrived Saturday from Lebanon on the second leg of a regional tour that will take him to Egypt, Syria and Israel (see page 3).

In another dispatch, Petra said the King also met with Archbishop Carey "and reviewed issues related to the region and its people, such as the peace process."

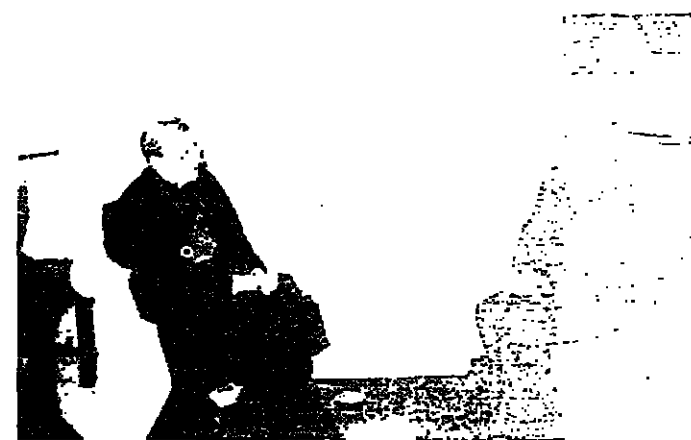
Earlier Saturday, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker received Archbishop Carey, the spiritual head of the Church of England.

"The prime minister reiterated Jordan's determination to pursue its quest for a just peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy and United Nations resolutions," Petra said.

Archbishop Carey, who ar-



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets New York Cardinal John O'Connor (above) and Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey (Petra photos)



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets New York Cardinal John O'Connor (above) and Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey (Petra photos)

1 killed in W. Bank shooting

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian was killed and two Israeli soldiers wounded in a gun battle in the occupied West Bank, the army said Saturday.

Plainclothes troops were lying in wait in a wooded area of the village of Umm Al Tut on Friday and opened fire when a group of Palestinians walked by, Palestinian sources said.

The Palestinians returned fire, hitting two soldiers, the army said. One suffered light, the other moderate wounds.

Palestinian reporters said some Palestinians got away, but did not know how many were in the group.

Troops closed off Umm Al Tut and two neighbouring villages in the Jenin district, the army said. Palestinians said soldiers backed up by helicopter went house to house to look for suspects.

The army identified the slain man as Mohammad Ali Madras, believed to be a member of the Black Panthers group from the nearby village of Kabatiyeh. Palestinians said his name was Mohammad Ismail and gave his age as 21.

The victim was wanted for his alleged involvement in the killings of seven Arabs suspected of collaborating with Israel, the army said.

In the Jenin refugee camp, meanwhile, some 200 youths marched through the narrow alleys and raised Palestinian flags to protest the expulsion orders against 12 Palestinians.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens ordered the 12 expelled after a Jewish settler was killed in a roadside ambush in the

Gaza Strip earlier this week.

The bodies of three suspected Arab informers were found in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian reporters said.

In Gaza, the strangled and beaten body of 26-year-old Ashraf Abdul Rahman Farrah was found in a street in the town of Khan Yunis on Friday. He was abducted by masked men on Wednesday.

Also in Khan Yunis, militants shot 25-year-old Musa Abdul Khader Abu Tahoun in the head and chest late Thursday.

In the West Bank village of Maslieh, residents found the body of Ahmad Abdul Latif Rashid Abu Al Rad, 30. He was kidnapped by masked men on Wednesday. The Black Panthers distributed leaflets claimed responsibility.

Algerians begin run off to Islamic state or democracy

ALGIERS (R) — Campaigning to decide if Algeria should become an Islamic state or a democracy started on Saturday, clouded by inquiries into fraud allegations over the first-round win by Muslim fundamentalists.

Official results of the Dec. 26 vote gave the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) — committed to putting Algeria's 25 million people under Islamic law — 188 of the 231 seats won outright.

For the FIS leadership, the advance to an Islamic state is assured.

"On Dec. 26 the Algerian people said its last word. It was the victory of Islam and the defeat of democracy, which is pure atheism," Abdul Kader Moghni, newly-elected FIS member of parliament, told Friday prayers.

But 341 complaints, mostly losing parties, ranging from "psychological pressure" to double-voting, have been lodged with the Constitutional Council, the supreme electoral body.

Eight teams set up by the council will investigate the charges during the runup to the Jan. 16 second ballot for the 199 undecided seats.

Algiers Radio said complaints involved 145 constituencies. Under Algerian election law the council could scrap some or all of the results where irregularities were confirmed and call new elections for the seats involved.

"First round put in question," read the headline in the independent newspaper Al Watan on Saturday. The paper reported that protests affected more than

one-third of all the seats.

The National Liberation Front (FLN), which ruled a one-party state for nearly 30 years and limped in with 15 seats in the December elections, lodged 174 complaints.

Another 30 complaints came from the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), which won 25 seats, the only other party to win any. The FIS submitted 17 protests.

Democrats appealed on Saturday for a massive turnout at the second round to thwart the FIS.

The FLN, jumping on the bandwagon of a FFS-organised march last Thursday in Algiers by at least 200,000 people "to support democracy," called it a new beginning.

The FLN and the FIS are leading contenders in the runoff between two leading candidates from seats where none gained a first-round majority.

FFS leader Hocine Ait Ahmad, who called the march to try to shock 5.4 million abstaining electors out of their "torpor," told the marchers: "The second round will reinforce democracy."

In an appeal to abstainers, the FLN said they and split votes formed "the main party in Algeria." It was illogical that the FIS with only twice as many votes as the FLN should gain 12 times as many seats.

"Only the people can save Algeria and democracy in expressing themselves fully by a massive vote in the second round," the FLN said on Saturday.

U.S., U.K. and France pursue Libya sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States, Britain and France are pursuing economic sanctions against Libya for its alleged role in the bombings of Pan American and French airliners but support for an embargo will be an uphill fight.

A total of 441 people were killed in the two crashes. As a first step the three nations want the Security Council to adopt a resolution calling for Libya to hand over all those accused of planting bombs on the two planes.

But the resolution, planned for circulation next week, does not give any deadline for Libya to comply.

If Tripoli fails to cooperate, the three — all permanent members of the Security Council — plan to ask the council to impose sanctions, diplomats said Friday.

A confidential working paper being discussed in capitals of Security Council members as well as with key Arab states, such as Egypt, says, "If Libya again refuses to comply with the demands we will ask the council to impose appropriate mandatory chapter 7 sanctions."

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq-U.N. oil talks set for Wednesday

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Talks between Iraq and the United Nations to discuss Baghdad's reentry to world oil markets will open in Vienna Wednesday.

There was no immediate explanation for the delay in the start of the talks which had been due to begin on Monday. Oil industry sources suggested there were differences in Baghdad over whether to accept U.N. terms for Iraq to sell oil.

The U.N. agreed last year to allow Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil for humanitarian needs over six months, but Iraq has rejected these restrictions as an infringement of its sovereignty.

Punitive U.N. sanctions imposed against Iraq soon after it invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, are still in force.

Oil analysts said the market's reaction to any U.N.-Iraq pact would depend on how much oil Iraq would be allowed to sell. Iraqi Oil Minister Usama Al-Hadi said last week that the \$1.6 billion agreed by the U.N. would not be enough to meet Iraq's needs. The U.N. says a portion of the money should go towards paying war reparations.

To a certain extent, Iraqi oil sales have been built into the market, but repeated delays in implementing the sales have made oil traders cautious, analysts said.

February crude oil prices jumped 47 cents a barrel last week in a choppy technical correction of December's sharp losses. Gasoline and heating oil prices also were up on the week, but energy futures ended mixed Friday.

Analysts said February crude oil's price of \$19.15 earlier this week and its ability to hold above that level suggests prices will continue firmer next week.

Most analysts said the Jan. 8-9 meeting between Iraq and the U.N. could radically alter the supply picture.

Iraq has said it can export one million barrels per day (bpd) of oil once the U.N. gives the go-ahead, but even half of that could pressure oil markets, analysts said.

"If Iraq is allowed 250,000 bpd there will be little reaction, more than that may have an impact," said AUS Consultant's Scott Jones.

Most traders said they expected the progress of the meeting to remain a secret to all but a

few political insiders until the final decision is reached. As a result, few were willing to take a position now.

U.S. assails Iraq

The State Department said Friday Iraq should immediately accept U.N. Security Council resolutions designed to combat growing hunger in Iraq.

Deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said Iraq had ignored the resolutions.

"We call upon the government of Iraq to immediately and unconditionally accept these Security Council resolutions," Mr. Boucher said in a statement.

In a separate statement, the State Department said it had received reports from knowledgeable sources that the Iraqi government was blocking the distribution of "needed food and medicine to vulnerable populations in the north."

The statement said Iraq also has denied volunteer groups use of facilities to do their work. In addition, people sent by the Iraqi government have travelled door-to-door warning residents they will be arrested if they accept foreign food assistance, it said.

These and other actions prove the Iraqi government is not complying with a U.N. resolution requiring Iraqi officials to cooperate with humanitarian relief efforts, the statement said.

Mr. Boucher's statement was portrayed as a new year's message to the Iraqi people reaffirming the "grave concern" of the international community "with their continued suffering and deprivation at the hands of the Iraqi regime."

U.N. and Red Cross humanitarian assistance to Iraq since March totals \$400 million, Mr. Boucher said.

Iraq "has caused large supplies of donated vaccines from the United Nations Children's Fund to sit unused at one facility," Mr. Boucher said.

He said about 200,000 Iraqi Kurds in the northern part of the country have been forced from their homes by the Iraqi military, while many displaced Iraqis in the south are living in a large marshland where unclean water is a major problem.

Mr. Boucher's remarks and the accompanying statement seemed designed to counter suggestions that the U.N. sanctions against Iraq be lifted to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people.



SNOW IN THE SUBURBS: A young girl takes time off from playing with snow while an elderly woman uses water leaked from a pipeline to wash her pots and pans (photo by Youssef Al 'Alam)



Iran paper urges action against population growth

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian newspaper Kayhan International Saturday urged the government to curb population growth, which at the present rate of 3.9 per cent a year is one of the highest in the world.

An editorial published by the English-language daily and carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the impact of the population explosion was "as destructive and degrading as that of war."

The only difference, it said, is that "the former takes longer to hit home."

In the last census conducted in June, Iran's population was estimated at 58.5 million. In 1976, Iran had a 33 million population. Iranian officials have complained that the population would double every 20 years if the present birth rate is maintained.

IRNA said Iran is the 21st most populated country in the world. It warned that by maintaining the present population growth rate, Iran would rank 13th in 30 years.

Kayhan said the reason for the severe drop in living standards should be sought in "the unrestricted growth of the population."

It urged the government to seek international expertise and make the issue of overgrowth "the centerpiece of all its activities."

"No organisation is more qualified than the United Nations, or its affiliate agencies which have grappled with the problem on a global level, to help Iran," it said.

It warned: "If the problem is not attended to in time, it might become too late and too costly to correct."

After the census, the Health Ministry imposed a new ruling, cancelling subsidies and other benefits for newborn children if their parents already have three children.

Health Minister Reza Malekzadeh said in a statement in July that several reasonably priced or free contraceptive methods were widely available to Iranians, urging them to make use of that. Abortion, however, remains illegal.

Birth control is a controversial issue among Islamic scholars. Some insist that contraception is against the will of God on the grounds that the birth of a child is an act of God.

But their views are overtaken by a rival group of scholars who advocate birth control on the basis of precepts upholding free will in the Koran.

They emphasise the verses calling on people to achieve happiness using every possible means, and argue that if contraception is a way of achieving it, it is permissible.

Gulf states asked to pay back dues to university

BAHRAIN (R) — The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has urged Arab states to pay their back dues owed to contractors who built the Arabian Gulf University (AGU), a GCC official said on Saturday.

The official told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh that leaders of the GCC alliance issued a resolution at the end of a three-day meeting in Kuwait last month calling on each country to pay its commitments to the university.

Four foreign contractors, suing owners of the campus, have said they would give owners of the AGU a final chance to appear in court before deciding on other legal steps.

Bahrain's high court summoned representatives of Gulf Arab states to appear at a hearing in Bahrain last Monday for the second time in two months but only two of defendants attended — Bahrain's government and the AGU.

The contractors sent a letter to GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bishara days before Gulf Arab leaders held a summit meeting in Kuwait on Dec. 23 asking for help.

The official said the resolution "stressed the importance of the Gulf university as a distinguished scientific and cultural centre which teaches studies concerning the region unfounded in other Gulf universities."

"It (the resolution) reiterated that each country has to pay its back dues to the university," the official said.

The cash-strapped university is owned by the GCC states — Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates — and Iraq while the Riyadh-based Arab Bureau of Education is its parent company.

Built in 1988, the four foreign contractors are Korea's Daewoo Industrial Company, the Australian-UAE firm Al Habtoor Leighton, Taiwan's Ret-Ser Engineering Agency and Saudi Arabia's Rabya Landscaping Ltd.

The contractors, who have said the AGU owes them \$66 million in interest and principal, are filing individual suits because they have separate contracts.

Industry sources say some GCC states — mainly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — have paid their share of building the \$109 million campus while others have contributed little.

GCC officials say there is a row over who should pay Iraq's share in the campus. Baghdad has been expelled from most Gulf councils after its forces invaded Kuwait in 1990.

There are also differences over how much the AGU owes the contractors, they added.

Bahrain's court has set a Jan. 28 date for the next hearing, a legal case unprecedented in the area, after the contractors said they would give the AGU another chance to solve the problem.

A French diplomatic source said the brothers were exclusively of French nationality. Some earlier reports said they had dual French and Moroccan citizenship.

Freed French brothers arrive in Paris from Morocco

PARIS (R) — Three French brothers arrived in Paris late Friday after being held incommunicado and without trial for 18 years in a secret Moroccan jail.

Rene Midhat Boureghat, 59, Bajazet Jacques Boureghat, 58, and Ali Auguste Boureghat, 54, visibly exhausted, flew into Orly airport to be welcomed by Alia's daughter, Anne Beranger.

"Just before our freedom, we were taken to a hospital in the mountains where we were seen by many doctors and specialists who were well treated there," Rene told reporters.

"That was done to get us back in form. I weighed 40 kilos when I left the prison," added Rene, who looked emaciated — as were his two brothers.

He described prison conditions as terrible, adding that their cells were "virtually tombs."

The three were freed on Monday and given passport by the French consulate, diplomats said. They said the decision to release the brothers was a gesture by King Hassan to improve Morocco's human rights image.

French human rights groups had campaigned for years on their behalf and the London-based group Amnesty International said they were among 61 people detained in "extremely

harsh conditions in a military prison at Tazmamart in the Atlas Mountains.

Mohammad Ziane, a member of the Consultative Council on Human Rights set up by King Hassan, said the king had pardoned the Boureghats and no charges were ever brought against them.

The reasons for their detention are unclear. Their mother and sister were jailed for 18 months suspicion of helping four military prisoners to escape. The brothers are also said to have been involved in the jail-break.

But according to other versions they were either suspected of spying for Israel or were victims of a vendetta by general Ahmad Dlimi, the king's aide-de-camp, who was killed in a road accident in January 1983.

Their mother was Moroccan and their father, a naturalised French citizen born in Tunisia, was in charge of setting up a Moroccan military intelligence service shortly after independence in 1956.

A French diplomatic source said the brothers were exclusively of French nationality. Some earlier reports said they had dual French and Moroccan citizenship.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Tunisia urges Arabs to curb fundamentalists

TUNIS (AP) — President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali warned other Arab countries Friday to crush Muslim fundamentalists who use terrorism in campaigns to erect Islamic states. Mr. Ben Ali's address to interior ministers gathered here from 16 Arab countries came a week after Islamic fundamentalists triumphed in parliamentary elections in neighbouring Algeria. Mr. Ben Ali, in an address read by Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel, urged his fellow leaders to "oppose organised terrorism carried out under the cover of religion. We must combine our efforts to struggle against this phenomenon, which is grave for our Arabo-Islamic society and encouraged by bands using violence and sedition." The speech opened a two-day conference on devising a common Arab strategy on security, counter-terrorism and crime prevention. Tunisia, which has jailed hundreds of fundamentalists on charges of attempting to overthrow the government, views the strength of Muslim radicals in Algeria with worry. The Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria captured 188 seats for the 430-seat parliament in first-round elections last week. It is expected to win a majority in runoff voting Jan. 16. Tunisia has outlawed fundamentalist parties. The banned group Al Nafha has organised violent street demonstrations over the past few years, and Mr. Ben Ali has accused it of plotting an armed campaign to overthrow his government.

Emir of Qatar delays Spain visit

MADRID (R) — The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, has had to delay a state visit to Spain because his host King Juan Carlos is in hospital recovering from a skiing accident, the Spanish Foreign Ministry said. The Emir's three-day visit, which was to begin on Jan. 7, will be rescheduled. King Juan Carlos is recovering well in hospital from knee surgery after a skiing accident on Dec. 28.

100 rebels killed in fighting, Djibouti says

LONDON (R) — More than 100 rebels and three government soldiers were killed in fierce clashes in the Red Sea state of Djibouti, state radio reported on Friday. The radio, quoting a Defence Ministry statement, said the rebels, whom it brands as mercenaries, died in clashes lasting 15 hours on Thursday in the coastal town of Tadjoura. Calm had now returned to the town although the armed forces remained on alert, said the radio. Last week Djibouti said it would seek a negotiated end to a seven-week-old rebellion by Afar tribesmen if they met certain conditions, but that a military option to crush the insurgency had not been ruled out. Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah said rebels of the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD) would have to lay down their arms and that foreigners in their ranks would have to return to their home countries. Djibouti's government blames Afars who normally live in neighbouring Ethiopia for making up most of the FRUD force, a claim which the rebels deny. The tiny Red Sea state's half-a-million population is fairly evenly made up of ethnic Afars and Somalis, but the government is dominated by ethnic Somalis of the Issa clan.

U.S. Gulf commander returns home

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The second and last official commander of Operation Desert Storm returned home Friday after 17 months in the Gulf, bringing with him more than 300 soldiers. Lieutenant-General W. Gus Pagonis and the soldiers were greeted with cheers, ribbons and refreshments provided by dozens of Red Cross volunteers upon their arrival at Philadelphia International airport. Gen. Pagonis was logistics commander during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the code names for the U.S.-led military operation against Iraq. He took over the desert command from Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf after the Gulf war ended. Gen. Pagonis had been stationed in Saudi Arabia since Aug. 7, 1990, just days after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait. He will join the army material command. With his departure, the U.S. military command structure in the Gulf reverted to its pre-war organisation. The few thousand troops still in the area will be under the command of Admiral Raynor A.K. Taylor, who is commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East. Gen. Pagonis said most of the U.S. troops returned home within three months after Iraqi troops retreated. Those still in Saudi Arabia are there to pack up equipment and operate the Patriot missile defence system.

Afghan guerrillas free kidnapped American

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — An American aid worker held by Afghan guerrillas for six months was freed unharmed in Pakistan Saturday, a U.S. embassy official said. Joel de Hart was handed over to the U.S. consul in Peshawar, Gerald Feinert, by a guerrilla leader of the radical Hezb-i-Islami group. "As far as we know, he is fine," a U.S. spokeswoman said. Hezb said it was not responsible for the abduction but had intervened to seek Mr. Hart's release after his colleague, veterinary doctor William Lewis, was freed in October. Both were abducted by Shiite Muslim guerrillas during their first mission into Afghanistan on behalf of the international aid agency Global Partners last July. Mr. Hart was acting as interpreter. Their kidnapping led to the suspension of all official U.S.-led food deliveries and other aid to guerrilla-held areas of Afghanistan. The attack on Mr. Lewis and Mr. Hart was one of a number in the past year on aid workers based in Pakistan or working inside.

Snow delays Archer meeting with Kurds

SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (R) — Heavy snow has delayed Saturday's planned meeting in Kurdistan between best-selling British author Jeffrey Archer and Kurdish guerrilla chieftain Massoud Barzani. Mr. Archer, who helped raise \$57 million for the Kurds last year, was stuck at the frontier town of Zakho after snow blocked mountain passes in northern Iraq. The meeting between Mr. Archer, a former deputy chairman of Britain's ruling Conservative Party, and Mr. Barzani has been rescheduled for Sunday in the mountain resort of Salahuddin. Mr. Archer arrived in Zakho on Friday night amid continuing controversy about the expenditure of funds he helped raise. In his week-long visit, Mr. Archer will meet Kurdish leaders, visit refugee camps and see for himself where the money went. Kurdish leaders are hoping to use Mr. Archer's visit and the accompanying publicity to make the case that Kurds still need help. Mr. Archer, a confidant of British Prime Minister John Major, is viewed here as a conduit to London's top policy makers.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 73111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:45	Gooskope
18:10	L'eco des fans
19:00	News in French
19:15	Carnet de notes
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Empty Nest
21:10	Nippon
22:00	News in English
22:30	And the Sea will Tell
PRAYER TIMES	
05:00	Fajr
05:31	(Sunrise) Duha
12:45	Dhuhr
14:25	'Asr
16:49	Maghrib
18:11	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Assumption Church Tel. 625383	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 628543	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331	
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751	
Assuan International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
There will be frost formation in the morning and another rise in temperatures is expected during the day. Winds will be southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, it will be fair with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	-3 / 8
Aqaba	5 / 17
Dead Sea	-4 / 9
Jordan Valley	2 / 17
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 5, Aqaba 14. Humidity readings:	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 70 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wael Kharrabi 665917
Dr. Tawfiq Qabiri 623029
Dr. Wael Dumali 774800
Dr. Subei Tzanous 898903
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637025
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

DEBID:
Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek (—)
Al Sharaf pharmacy 778825

ZARQA:
Dr. Ziad Hawatneh (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 893390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 660100
Water Authority 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport..... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khadra Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 607227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marla 891511/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

JERUSALEM:
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
The Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

DEBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
The Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Jeddah (RJ)

Archbishop of Canterbury says church hopes for 'early' settlement of Mideast conflict

By Serene Halasa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, the spiritual leader of the Church of England, said Saturday that his church supports the ongoing peace efforts to resolve the Middle East conflict and encourages an "early" and "just" solution to the problem.

"I know that the Church of England would want to encourage the British government, with other Western governments, to press for an early and just solution to the crisis," Archbishop Carey said at a press conference held at the British ambassador's house here.

Dr. Carey arrived in Amman on Friday at the start of a six-day visit to the Kingdom, the occupied territories and Israel. During his stay in Jordan, the archbishop was received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir as well as a number of representatives of the Jordanian Christian community.

The archbishop declined to be specific on the nature of his talks with the King, but according to the official Jordanian News Agency, Petra, the two sides discussed the peace process and the Kingdom's

commitment to reach a just and comprehensive solution based on United Nations resolutions 242 and 338.

In his meeting with the prime minister, Dr. Carey heard Sharif Zeid stress the importance of reaching a peaceful solution and granting the Palestinian people their full rights including the right of self-determination.

The archbishop voiced his appreciation to the role of His Majesty in laying the foundations for peace and prosperity in the Middle East.

According to Dr. Carey's London-based office, the main purpose of his visit is to mark the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem.

"I came at the invitation of the Reverend Samir Kafity, who is Anglican bishop in Jerusalem and whose diocese includes Anglican work in Jordan," the archbishop said. "The principal reason for my coming at this time is to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the appointment of the first Anglican bishop in Jerusalem in 1841."

The Jerusalem Anglican Church is the province of the worldwide Anglican church that the archbishop leads. In April of last year Dr. Carey was named the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity of visiting schools and hospitals and of being entertained in private homes," the archbishop said. "In this way, I shall hope to discover the views of ordinary people, and learn about the joys and sorrows of life in these territories."

Dr. Carey also spoke about his church's commitment to helping the needy around the world. Asked about the effects of sanctions on the people of Iraq, the archbishop said: "Our commitment are on the needs of the world. As for the dying children in Iraq, our sympathies are with them."

He added that his visit would not include Iraq because of his full schedule.

The archbishop will leave on Sunday for the occupied territories and Israel, where he will meet with Palestinian leaders as well as Israel's president, Chaim Herzog, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. He said that the purpose of his meetings is to gather insight into the views of the conflicting parties.

On Monday, the archbishop will celebrate Christmas with the Greek Orthodox Church in Bethlehem. The archbishop will leave the region on Wednesday night to head back to England.



Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi

Rally in support of Palestinians to be held today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A major public rally will be held at the Al Hussein Youth City in Amman Sunday under the patronage of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir in commemoration of the 26th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution.

Palestine ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim will be one of the key speakers at the rally, which will be attended by Jordanian and Palestinian officials.

Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi, secretary general of the Jordanian Popular Committee for Supporting the Palestinian Intifada, and Farouk Al Kaddoumi, the head of the Political Department at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), will also deliver addresses.

The ceremony will also include a Palestinian folkloric performance by the Al Hannouneh Troupe.

The rally was originally scheduled for last Thursday but was put off in view of the severe weather conditions.

The Palestine embassy in Amman organised the rally and invited representatives of various organisations in Jordan to attend the event.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

House to meet, debate host of issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat decided Saturday to call the House for a meeting on Sunday at 5 p.m. to hear a statement by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber on Jordan's foreign policy. The statement will deal with the developments in the peace process since it was first launched in Madrid, Oct. 30, 1991, the outcome of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit, which was held in the Senegalese capital recently, in addition to a host of issues.

Senate discusses new budget law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament's Financial Committee held a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. The meeting discussed the 1992 general budget draft law.

Company reports increase in oil sale

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company's sales of oil in 1991 have increased by 8 per cent, compared to 1990, the company's Director General Saad Al Tal said Saturday. He said the company's sales of oil in 1991 reached 20,420 tonnes, witnessing an increase of 1,482 tonnes over 1990. He attributed this increase to the good quality of the company's products and their competitive prices.

Australian academics visit U. of Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Saturday received at the university a delegation representing the Australian New England University and discussed with its members cooperation between the two universities in academic and scientific fields. Dr. Gharaibeh briefed the visiting delegation on the development of the University of Jordan, its academic programmes and plans and the services it provides for the local society. The delegation was also received by the university Vice-President for Scientific Facilities Affairs and Acting Director of the Registration Department Abdul Hameed Sabbagh.

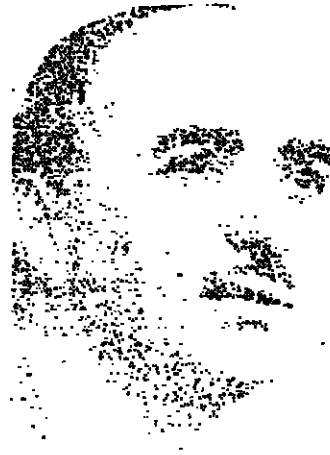
Palestinian, Jordanian parliament speakers condemn Israel's decision to expel 12 activists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories was condemned Saturday by the speakers of the Jordanian and Palestinian parliaments, who called for drastic action on the part of the world community to halt Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people.

The decision to expel the 12 citizens provides clear evidence that the Israelis disregard Arab and Palestinian rights and are determined to continue their defiance of the world community, said Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

The Israeli occupation authorities are going ahead with their long-established strategy of evacuating the Arab territories and the Arabs should expect more actions of this type in the future, Dr. Arabiyat was quoted as saying in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The expulsion decision was something expected from the Israeli enemy, who denies Palestinian human rights, pursues the building of settlements in the occupied Arab lands, refuses to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and deprives the Palestinians of the right to establish their own state on



Abdul Latif Arabiyat

their national soil," Dr. Arabiyat said.

"We can only rely on intrinsic Arab power and on Arab unity in the face of such atrocities directed against the whole Arab Nation," Dr. Arabiyat added.

He said such self-reliance is now needed after the United Nations and its affiliated agencies have proved impotent in confronting and curtailing Israel's practices.

Dr. Arabiyat's call on the world community to take appropriate action vis-a-vis Israel's practices was echoed by



Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), who described the expulsion decision as a show of disregard to all U.N. laws and the Geneva Conventions.

By deciding to expel the Palestinian citizens, Israel has proved that it was never serious about peace with the Arabs and the world community should not only condemn its actions, but also take steps towards forcing Israel to refrain from carrying out its decision.

In a statement on Israel television, Defence Minister Moshe

Arens said that the United States, which has criticised Israel's expulsion decision, can by no means force the Jewish state not to carry it out.

The Israelis have accused the 12 citizens from Gaza and the West Bank of being affiliated to illegal Palestinian organisations and responsible for attacks against Israelis as well as Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities.

In his statement carried by Petra, Sheikh Sayeh called on the United States to stop all its material assistance to Israel, to force the Jewish state to comply with the desires and the will of the world community and honour the requirements of international legitimacy.

He said that the Israeli move was clearly designed to sabotage the Middle East peace process.

The two speakers' statements followed condemnation of Israel's move by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who described it as a provocative measure which contravenes international charters and conventions.

Dr. Abu Jaber said that Israel seems to be intent on foiling the peace process by taking such measures, which adversely affect the peace negotiations.

Official calls for Arab unity to deal with changing world

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan Saturday urged Arab countries to embark on a new phase in inter-Arab relations based on mutual trust, closer cooperation and brotherly affection so as to achieve the objectives of the Arab Nation.

The Arab countries are called on to honour their national duty by transcending the present side issues and starting new fruitful cooperation at all levels, said Minister of Interior Jawdat Al Shoul in an address delivered to the Arab Interior Ministers Council meeting here.

The Hashemite leadership in Jordan as well as the Jordanian people have never compromised the security of any other Arab country," he said. "On the contrary, Jordan, under most difficult circumstances, joined hands with other Arab states to defend the nation and will continue to do so regardless of the challenges, said Mr. Shoul.

The Arab World, he added, is

now going through a very dangerous stage with fast moving developments and the Arabs are in dire need of security, which is the key for life in the region.

"We have a national duty to overcome the present side differences and begin a new chapter of fruitful relationship, characterised with brotherly feelings and aiming to achieve the common interest of the Arab people," he said.

Mr. Shoul voiced Jordan's appreciation to the Tunisian government for hosting the conference.

The three-day meeting will be devoted to Arab strategic issues like combating crime of all kinds through further security cooperation among Arab states.

The meeting will also discuss recommendations passed by the Arab police chiefs at their recent meeting in Tunis and will review a draft project to deal with issues of drug abuse in the Arab World.

Ministry struggles to deliver supplies to snow-plagued south

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply's warehouses in the southern provinces are stocked with large quantities of basic food supplies but the ministry is having difficulty in delivering the supplies to certain areas besieged with snow, said Ministry Secretary General Radi Ibrahim Saturday.

A large stock of rice, sugar, powdered milk and fodder for animals are in the ministry's warehouses in the main centres of these provinces, but the weather conditions of the past week prevented them being delivered to a number of rural and urban areas, Mr. Ibrahim said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Jordan Television had reported that bedouin settlements in the regions of Tafleh and Maan were

almost cut off by the snow storm of the past week and bedouins there were shown demanding fodder for their animals.

In view of the prevailing weather conditions in the south, the Ministry of Supply in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian Air Force dropped large amounts of bread to people in the snow-affected areas over the past two days, said Mr. Ibrahim.

The Ministry of Supply is maintaining constant links with its departments in the southern provinces to ensure continued services to all regions, Mr. Ibrahim said.

He added that all bakeries in various provinces were functioning normally and food supplies exist in large quantities. The local dealers and merchants have problems related to food supplies in these regions, he said.



John O'Connor, cardinal of New York, answers reporters' questions Saturday during a press conference. The cardinal pledged to work for the lifting of the sanctions on Iraq (Petra photo)

Cardinal of New York pledges to work for lifting of sanctions on Iraq

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — John O'Connor, the Roman Catholic cardinal of New York, pledged Saturday to work for lifting the international sanctions against Iraq so that the suffering of the Iraqi people could be eased.

The cardinal also donated \$50,000 to help the mainly Iraqi refugees in Jordan.

Cardinal O'Connor, who arrived in Amman Saturday morning from Lebanon, was received by His Majesty King Hussein shortly after his arrival.

The talks between the King and the cardinal mostly covered the problems of refugees in Jordan and ways and means to help them.

Cardinal O'Connor, who also had talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, said the central theme of his visit to the region was help for refugees, whether Iraqi or Palestinian.

"We tackled the question of refugees and I believe that the King wants to do everything in his power to help them," Cardinal O'Connor said of his talks. "But he cannot do it alone without the help of other nations," he told the Jordan Times at the Jordan Caritas Centre which he visited later in the day.

Cardinal O'Connor said he had had an audience with Pope John Paul before embarking on his Middle East visit. "The Pope asked me to tell all the refugees, including the Palestinian (refugees), that he wants all the church agencies to help

in any way possible," Cardinal O'Connor said.

The cardinal, head of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, said: "When I return to the U.S. I will present Jordan's views and urge for humanitarian reasons to lift the embargo on Iraq."

Reports from Iraqis speak of hospitals full of malnourished children and thousands facing possible death from easily preventable diseases if only proper medicines and vaccines were available.

United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, say that as many as 80,000 Iraqi children have died as a direct or indirect result of the continuing sanctions, which were imposed in August 1990, shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Jordan hosted close to one million third country nationals who fled Iraq and Kuwait following the invasion. In addition, the Kingdom is now faced with the problem of over a quarter million Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who have returned home.

The Kingdom has also extended humanitarian help to tens of thousands of Iraqis who fled the suffering in their country, which was devastated in the Gulf war over Kuwait early last year.

Caritas has played a significant role in Jordan's relief efforts.

According to Jordan Caritas Director Father Moosa Adeli, Caritas has given medical help to the refugees.

The main work of Caritas has been to pay for around

4,000 Iraqis' bus tickets to return to their homeland.

Speaking on behalf of the Iraqi refugees in Jordan, a middle aged man asked the cardinal to appeal to the international community to find solutions to the suffering of the Iraqi people. "We have been in Jordan for months. We sold everything in Iraq. We are trying to find a decent place but we cannot go to any country," the man said at Caritas.

He added that most of the Iraqi refugees have families abroad but that no country is granting them visas for family reunions.

"They (foreign countries) are treating us like criminals," said the man who did not identify himself. "We cannot go back to Iraq. We cannot get jobs in Jordan and they are not accepting us abroad," he said, summarising the complaint of many Iraqis who are in Jordan, hopefully waiting for visas to go abroad.

Father Adeli welcomed the cardinal and presented two problems: that of the Palestinians and the economic situation of Jordan where "40 per cent are living below poverty line."

Father Adeli called on the cardinal to seek an end to the sanctions against Iraq and also to "participate with the international community to seek peace in the Middle East and seek Palestinian self-determination."

Cardinal O'Connor is scheduled to leave Jordan today and head for the occupied West Bank. The cardinal visited Jordan in 1987.

Rising water forces King Hussein Bridge to close

AMMAN (J.T.) — The King Hussein Bridge on the River Jordan will be closed as of today due to the rise in the level of water following heavy rainfall and snow.

The announcement was made by the Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday, which said that the date for the reopening the bridge will be announced later when circumstances allow for it.

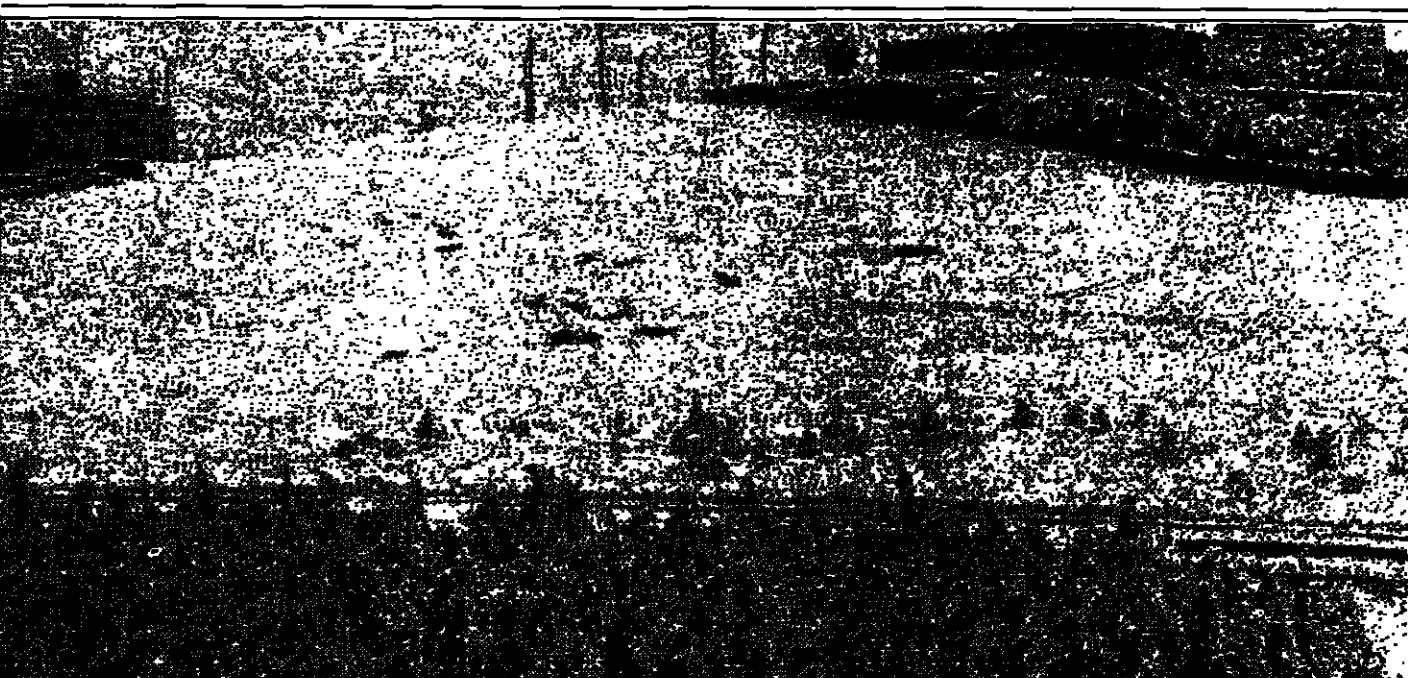
The King Hussein Bridge is the only link for travellers to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip from Jordan. At least, 1,000 people use the bridge daily, especially in the summer season to cross into the occupied territories. Trucks must use the Prince Mohammad Bridge.

Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) announced Saturday that the Queen Alia International Airport and the Amman Civil Airport as well the

Aqaba Airport were functioning normally with no problems from the snow storm of the past week.

CAA Director General Ahmad Jweiber said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the airports were functioning normally since last Thursday, the second day of the storm which affected all parts of the Kingdom.

The only change in the airports' schedule, he said, occurred to departures.



Although the recent winter storm which hit Jordan and the Middle East has subsided, many areas remain covered by the heavy snowfall (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

CDD, PSD teams praised for rescue operations

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 25-year-old Jordanian woman Saturday gave birth to a baby boy while riding in a Civil Defence Department (CDD) ambulance to hospital. The woman, whose identity was not revealed, had called the CDD for help, to carry her to hospital shortly after labour started at home.

But she delivered in the ambulance with the CDD men helping deliver the baby on the way. Both the boy and his mother were reported in good health, according to CDD officers taking part in the delivery.

Helping the woman to deliver was one of the numerous tasks assigned to the CDD men during the past week's snowstorm and in its aftermath. Both the CDD and the Public Security Department (PSD) reported numerous road accidents, on both the roads inside the capital, Amman, and on the highways.

The cause was skidding because of the icy and slippery roads.

The road situation in Jordan kept most people at home with very few cars venturing out around noon Saturday.

Sketchy reports were available Saturday about the number of accidents but the CDD reported that nine people were injured, including three children who were rushed to hospital in CDD ambulances after having inhaled smoke from a kerosene heater.

A 72-year-old man died from burns when a kerosene heater fell on him at his home in Salt, CDD sources reported.

The CDD also reported the occurrence of 1,225 incidents, resulting in 12 deaths and 614 injuries, between Dec. 31 and Jan. 4.

His Majesty King Hussein voiced appreciation to the CDD and the PSD for their heroic efforts to extend a helping hand to people during the severe weather conditions.

In a telephone conversation Saturday with Maj. Gen. Abdul Rahman Al Udwan, the PSD deputy director, the King passed directives on the need to intensify efforts for better services and to ensure food supplies to areas cut off by the snow, especially in the southern regions.

The Meteorology Department cautioned motorists and citizens to move with extra care and said that most roads in the country were slippery, especially at night and in the early morning hours.

An official told the Jordan Times that temperatures were to drop to three degrees below zero at night, rising to eight degrees during day hours. The official said that frost formation was expected in all regions, including the Jordan Valley, due to the cold and clear skies, but he noted that by Monday the cold weather will break. A new depression is expected, though, which could bring showers to the northern regions of the Kingdom.

Department Director Ali Abanda told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the rains of December 1991 were a rare occurrence in the Kingdom, witnessed only in 1922 and 1951.

Minister of Transport Saad Hayel Al Srouf Saturday inspected the southern regions of Maan, Tafleh and Karak governorates, worst hit by the snowstorm, and supervised the reopening of roads that had been blocked by snow.

The minister said everything possible was being done by the ministry's teams to open the roads and offer assistance to the public. He said that a central operation room in Amman had been coordinating the relief work in the southern regions around the clock.

Also Saturday there were reports from the Jordanian Armed Forces, the CDD and the PSD about their operations in the north, central and southern regions.

The reports said there was disruption of power and telephone lines in these different regions and said teams were hard at work to restore normal communications and other essential services.

Marwan Bushnaq, manager of the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) told Petra that 90 per cent of the disruptions in electric power caused by the snowstorm will be dealt with as of Sunday. He said that the CDD would help JEPCO to remove the fallen trees that caused some of the disruptions.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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A question of commitment

IF THE United States wants to act as an honest broker of peace in the Middle East, as it repeatedly asserts, it must recognise that the two sides to the central conflict, the Palestinian-Israeli, are not equal powers in the struggle for the land of Palestine and therefore merit different treatment. Israel is a state with an army and powerful supporters, while the Palestinians are under occupation who cannot be blamed for their acts of desperation, especially when they see Jewish settlers taking more and more of their land with the blessing and encouragement of the Israeli government. The 12 Palestinians whom Israel intends to expel are not responsible for the killing of a Jewish settler in Gaza. The Jewish settler, his zealot colleagues and the Israeli establishment are responsible for daily provoking the sentiments of a people in captivity.

Palestinians cannot pretend to be grateful to the U.S. condemnation of the Israeli expulsion order and the slaying of the Jewish settler. Israeli settlement policy is, as the U.S. would like to say, an obstacle to peace. And unless that obstacle is removed and quickly, the Palestinians will continue to resist it and Israel will use that as a pretext for its oppression and expulsion of the Palestinians. If the U.S. believes in its contention that the peace talks must focus on the exchange of land for peace, then the status of the "disputed" land should not be altered everyday while the peace process progressed. In fact the peace process cannot progress alongside Israeli settlement building. At the rate at which settlements and settlements' foundations are built, there soon will be little if any land to negotiate over. We believe the U.S. is sincere in its call on the Israeli occupation authorities to rescind their expulsion order. We are optimistic that the Americans will put enough pressure on the Israelis to reverse their decision. However, that is the minimum the Arabs and Palestinians expect from the Americans, the self-declared catalysts of peace. The Arabs, unlike the Israelis, want the U.S. to be more involved and active in the peace process. The Arabs see in Israeli tactics not only an attempt to derail the peace process, but an adamant Israeli push to tell the U.S. administration to keep its hand off the peace talks. The Americans need to remember that only through their active involvement in the Camp David peace talks did Israel and Egypt reach agreement in 1978. The Middle East peace process, its failure or success, totally depends on how much the U.S. is committed to peace and how far it adheres to its commitment.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAEL'S decision to expel 12 Palestinian citizens came as another evidence of the Jewish state's real intentions of sabotaging the Middle East peace process and therefore, the world community in general and the United States in particular should take prompt measures to halt such atrocities, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. Yitzhak Shamir, having faced a scandal over the 1992 budget, by succumbing to the wishes of the settlers and the ultra-orthodox groups, has now resorted to expelling the Palestinians in order to divert attention from this scandal and the internal divisions in his government, the paper said. But the expulsion was also meant to serve Zionism's purpose of evacuating the land of Palestine so that the Jewish immigrants can settle in place of the Arab population, the paper added. The expulsion is not only a violation of international laws and the Geneva Conventions, but also constituted a provocative action directed against the Palestinians and their representatives at the peace negotiations, according to the paper. It said that the Palestinians have all the right to refrain from resuming the negotiations until Washington has put an end to Israel's settlement programme. If the settlement of immigrant Jews continues in Palestine, said the paper, the Palestinians will find nothing to negotiate about in the long run.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday criticised the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) for its failure to provide transport facilities during the snowstorm and thus not granting people the facilities of going to work or carrying out important daily business. Nazih said that the armed forces, the public security and the civil defence services, as well as workers from the Amman Municipality and other municipalities, were quick to respond to the needs of citizens by hurrying to open roads and removing snow that blocked them, but the PTC provided no service to the public. Had it not been for the combined services on the roads there could have been huge material and human losses, the writer said. He said that the PTC had failed to service the public and PTC buses vanished on the second day of the snowstorm thus forcing citizens to use cars and causing a great number of road accidents, during the past three days. The writer expressed hope that the municipal services and other concerned departments have by now discovered the points of weaknesses that crop up under severe weather conditions and other difficult circumstances so that future crises can be averted.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Central planning out of date

By Dr. Fahd Al Faraj

THE era of central planning in Jordan started in the early 1970s and ended when Jordan was led to its economic crisis of 1988, which we planned and worked hard for, and into which all the warnings failed to prevent our fall.

The preceding attempts of the 10-year economic programme of the fifties, and the seven-year development plan of the sixties were only indicators for the public sector activities and hardly interfered in the market forces or the private sector.

When we adopted central planning, it was fashionable in the Third World, i.e., outside the Western industrialised world. The national economy of Jordan in particular was placed on the shoulders of the treasury, which was financed from abroad. The feeling at the time was that this odd situation was sustainable, and could continue for ever. The last five-year plan of 1986-1990 called for borrowing, by the government, of around \$4.2 billion to finance the investments listed in the plan.

When we were obliged to shelve the last five-year economic and social plan in 1988, the whole world was discarding the concept of central planning because its failure and inefficiency had become evident and because of the new-found conviction that market forces, individual initiatives and private sector activities should play a larger role in the management of the national economy.

instead of the government's dead hand.

Now, three years after the scrapping of the last five-year plan, we started to hear voices calling for the return to central planning, whereby the government will make the major decisions and identify the desired investments through the judgment of bureaucrats and not the initiative of investors and businessmen.

Planning sounds very nice and is attractive for political slogans despite the fact that in reality it means more distortions, less competence, worse allocation of scarce resources and economic stagnation.

It is obvious that the return to planning will mean that the bulk of the new investments will again fall on the shoulders of the government instead of the private sector. This means that the treasury will need more funds, which could come only from borrowing, more taxes or drawing on the Central Bank, which will unleash inflation and deplete foreign reserves in no time. All this, when the private sector has the savings that can be invested as soon as businessmen are satisfied with the investment climate and assured that the state will not impose its heavy hand, once more, on the economic life of the country, as central planning implies.

The writer is by no means annoyed by the mere idea of

planning. Some sort of planning is needed for the overall direction of the macro-economy and its overall targets. In this respect, we have the seven-year economic adjustment programme which deals with the aggregate economy, but does not interfere in the economics of the individual units. He was annoyed by the fact that some Parliament deputies called for the return to planning simply in order to define the individual investments and name the projects which must be implemented not only the volume of new investments.

Governments are normally shortsighted. A present government has no right to plan for a future government, therefore the central budget should be enough for an annual plan. There is no reason for the government to commit itself now to implementing a project for three or four years to come if it can then make a better and timely decision, especially when circumstances and priorities do change with time and better information becomes available.

Let us face it. In the past we used to forge a five-year plan to be proud of and to make it a show case to the international financing institutions. Nowadays, central planning is nothing to be proud of and international institutions, are no more interested in central plans which became a symbol of backwardness.

By Yuichiro Nagatomi

CAPITALISTS, defined as exceptional individuals who control large companies and large amounts of money for their own ends, may be rare in the U.S. corporate system. But they do not exist in Japan. None of Japan's large companies are run by capitalists; they are headed instead by salaried presidents who have risen through company ranks to the executive position. Japan is a capitalist-free market economy.

Japan used to have its share of capitalists, aggressive owner-presidents who guarded their elite status and substantial incomes. Even after World War II, the zaibatsu corporate group system encouraged executives to appoint suitable heirs as replacements, retaining the unaccountability of the company presidency.

The large zaibatsu families — Mitsui, Fuyo and others — have since withdrawn from the front lines of management, in part a consequence of the dismantling of the zaibatsu mandated during the U.S. postwar occupation.

But both the demise of capitalists in Japan, and their prominence in the U.S. corporate system, can be explained by tracing the interaction of each society's basic tenets with the development of the postwar capitalist system.

Individualism or membership

Western humanism, which evolved in part from a rejection of religious authority vested in an absolute God, emphasises the individual. The 19th century industrialisation of Western Europe hinged on a similar reduction of people and things to discrete units performing specific functions. Individualism and functionalism thus promoted industrial production, the division of labour, and other facets of industrialisation in Europe.

These same values inform the U.S. corporate system. Individualism fosters severe competition among employees, who hone their talents for specific functions and use them to obtain better jobs and pay.

Japan, by contrast, lacks a religious tradition that postulates an all-powerful God, and so had no backlash movement that made the individual paramount. Instead, traditional society placed importance not on people per se but on their mutual relationships. This emphasis on membership lies behind Japan's corporate structure, shaping the course of its modernisation and indus-

trialisation. In place of self-promotion and self-confidence, the company values humility and harmony; instead of criticism, membership encourages self-restraint among employees.

Such a value system cannot tolerate a company president who singlehandedly runs the show and reaps the profits. As the postwar economy developed, Japan found that it did not need "capitalists" to have a successful economic system; salaried workers sufficed.

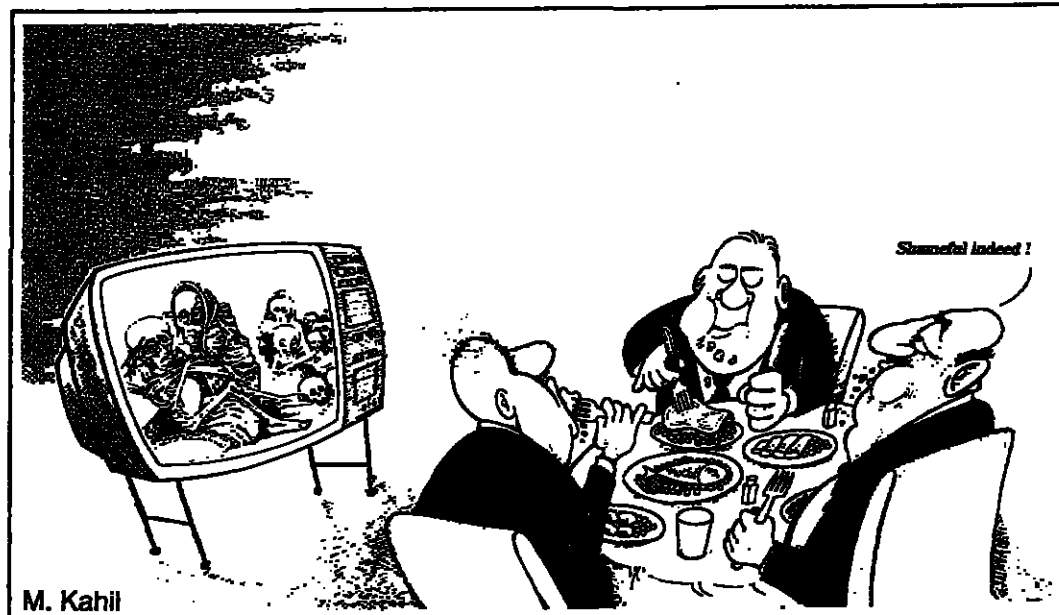
Capitalist-free

One effect of Japan's capitalist-free economy is a narrow salary differential between the top executive and the lower-level employee.

In the U.S., that gap yawns. Business Week (May 6, 1991) reported that in 1990, the average annual income of an executive in the U.S. reached \$1.95 million, 85 times that of a typical factory worker. Most U.S. companies are run by and for capitalists. Free competition in an atmosphere rewarding self-promotion and self-reliance produces individuals with a keen and creative business spirit; those who succeed are compensated accordingly.

Large Japanese companies, however, exist for the benefit not of capitalist company presidents but of the employees. Seikei Institute, a private research organisation, reports that Japanese company presidents receive, on average, 26 million yen annually (\$200,000), just 12.5 times the average for entry-level employees. After taxes, the factor drops considerably, to 8.7. Companies reward those who are good members rather than those who distinguish themselves, valuing specific professional skills less than general commitment to the company. Company employees in Japan are virtually assured of promotion through the ranks of their company's management, and may one day become top executives themselves. This knowledge strengthens employee loyalty and motivation. Since pay scales are not used to reward knowledge or skill, but to enforce the ethic of membership, they may be egalitarian.

Salaries, however, are but one indicator of the values split between the U.S. and Japan. In addition to extravagant yearly salaries, U.S. executives typically hold company stock. But in Japan, most company stock is held by other companies; there are few individual capitalist stockholders insisting on short-term returns. Companies are therefore freer to distribute funds strategically. Japanese companies



have had the financial flexibility and long-term perspective to pioneer new products and increase their competitiveness. Also, companies frequently offer their workers such facilities and social services as housing and education.

The absence of capitalist heads-of-companies, and the accompanying importance vested in being a member of a company, and not an individual entity, influences the way employees are treated; workers in the U.S. are more likely to be laid off during business slowdowns or mergers than they are in Japan.

The structure of labour unions also reflects the emphasis in the U.S. on individual skills, and in Japan on being company members. In the U.S., most unions are industry-wide, while in Japan they are typically company-based.

Hard and soft

A look at the history of modernisation in the U.S. and Japan can elucidate these contrasting business practices. Pre-modern society in Europe and Japan followed what has been called the "natural (soft) path," characterised by harmony between humans and nature and close interpersonal ties. After industrialisation, society took the "mechanised (hard) path," which has driven people to dig for coal and oil and construct ever bigger machinery, eventually producing what Kenneth Galbraith has called "the affluent society."

But the hard path has destroyed nature. As the international environmental research group Club of Rome reported in 1972, we are now faced with a global environmental crisis. This

path, in its encouragement of individualism, has also undercut interpersonal ties, and has led to the drug problem, urban crime, and other such symptoms of the "advanced nation's disease." People have begun to question the meaning of such affluence. Japan's Management and Coordination Agency reports that during the high growth period only a third of those surveyed placed greater importance on spiritual, rather than material, well-being, but by 1984, that figure had risen to 70 per cent.

To combat these ills, Masayoshi Ohira (prime minister 1978-80) advocated blending the soft and hard paths to produce a "holonic" path, which would strengthen interpersonal ties and reinstate a harmonious relationship with nature.

The U.S., however, had no pre-modern period. It proceeded along a course of pure modernisation, untrammelled by pre-modern ideas. Following the precepts of individualism, equal opportunity and free competition, the U.S. became both the strongest nation in the world and a superb modern material civilisation. But its lack of a "soft path" pre-modern period has made it difficult to soften its "hard path"; U.S. policymakers do not know where to turn.

Some foreign scholars have said that in the U.S., the lack of interpersonal contact and of adults to watch over children has multiplied the number of underdeveloped children and made public parks into hotbeds of drugs and crime.

In an effort to give the U.S. a push in the right direction, then President Reagan, in his 1986

State of the Union Address, called for a return to traditional values in the fight against drugs, crime and other social problems to bring about the revival of the nation.

U.S. economic performance reflects its problems and inability to "soften" up and improve economic quality. While major U.S. exports to Japan include primary products (wood, seafood, and meat), Japan mainly exports automobiles and technological products to the U.S. Speaking only of U.S.-based industries, we can say that at this rate U.S. competitiveness will remain weak and the basic cause of the trade balance will never be addressed.

In its 1989 publication Made in America, MIT's committee on industrial productivity proposed that the U.S. blend traditional American individualism with traditional Japanese cooperation.

Scandals

Despite the economic success achieved under membership and the consequent scarcity of capitalists, Japan must improve its economic system. The same membership dynamic that produced the egalitarianism of the salaried worker society makes its members unwilling to criticise, and interdependent to a fault.

Consider that most business scandals in Japan during the past 20 years were perpetrated by "corporate soldiers" working not for individual gain but rather for the good of the company. Their behaviour, encouraged though it was by Japanese membership, exceeded the limits of what was permissible, and thus earned them severe public censure.

The recent securities scandal, in which brokerages compensated

major investors for huge losses in the stock market, has forced the salaried worker society to confront some of the same issues raised by such international financial scandals as the BCCI incident. Each stemmed from a surplus of money which tempted a powerful few to go beyond the bounds of propriety. Societies will have to construct checks in their corporate systems to prevent future abuses.

But Japan's response to its scandals also reflects its obsession with membership. Concerned with egalitarianism, people are demanding that large investors be treated the same as small ones.

The issue of the current scandals should not be that compensation was distributed unevenly, however, but that it was distributed at all. Japanese commentators have missed two points; first, though it is economically rational to treat large investors preferentially, they mistakenly criticise such inequality; and second, though compensating stock market losses eliminates risk, which gives stock transactions their meaning in the first place, Japanese critics fail to attack the compensation system strongly enough.

The Japanese must learn to accept a society that encourages greater independence and inequality, or it will never reach the root of such corporate ills as the recent securities scandal.

But Japan need not completely revise its concept of membership to conform to Western standards. Even U.S. companies are beginning to see the value of teamwork. Japan can provide a valuable model for post-communist Eastern European countries, whose leaders might be relieved to know that a market economy does not require capitalists, and that the public ownership of property they experienced under socialism is very similar to the Japanese corporate system of mutual stock ownership. Developing countries in Asia and elsewhere may similarly use Japan as an economic model.

The Japanese economic system, finally, must be made more comprehensible to the U.S. and the developed nations of Western Europe. It must utilise the strengths of membership while working to eradicate the weak points of over-tolerance and group interdependency. A hybrid system integrating membership and individualism may be the ultimate outcome of such an effort, and may eventually serve as the common economic system among the U.S., Europe and Japan. — Look Japan.

Hardship — the only certainty for communist Cuba in 1992

By Pascal Fletcher
Reuters

HAVANA — Cuba, one of the world's last orthodox communist states, ended 1991 under intense international pressure for political change and suffering from an economic crisis triggered by the break-up of the Soviet Union.

President Fidel Castro, 65, remains the undisputed leader after 33 years in power. But he is fighting the hardest battle of his long career to ward off economic collapse while keeping a tight lid on opposition.

To the chilling slogan "socialism or death," coined to reflect Cuba's defiance of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, the Cuban leader has added a rallying cry for the new year: "save the nation, the revolution and socialism."

He has made it abundantly clear that, whatever 1992 brings, his government will fight to the end to maintain the island's one-party communist system and socialist economy in a world dominated by multi-party politics and the market economy.

"Our enemies should know that we're ready to defend our ideas and our cause at whatever price — at whatever price — and that we're ready to fight without limits," President Castro told a congress of schoolchildren earlier this month.

Out of the short-term outlook for Cuba's more than 10 million people, already suffering from drastic rationing, restrictions and shortages in almost every aspect of their daily lives, is for unremitting hardship.

The new year could bring the vulnerable sugar-exporting, oil-importing economy closer to what the government calls the "zero option" — a state of minimum subsistence in which external supplies of fuel, machinery and food will have dried up entirely or been drastically reduced.

Uncertainty surrounds what level of supplies Cuba can expect from what was once the Soviet Union, its political mentor and main economic provider for three decades.

Soviet deliveries of oil, the island's energy lifeline, were abruptly halted for the month of

December.

A progressive drying-up of vital Soviet supplies over the last 18 months has forced authorities to extend rationing of food and consumer goods, cut back transport and electricity and replace cars with bicycles and tractors with oxen.

Even the 1991-1992 sugar harvest, Cuba's main export commodity which it traditionally exchanged for Soviet oil, is threatened by shortages of fuel, lubricants and spare parts.

A nationwide food self-sufficiency programme, involving the mobilisation of thousands of workers to the fields, has not resolved chronic food shortages.

A booming but inflationary black-market is under attack from a police crackdown which, in Havana at least, has begun to involve spot searches of pedestrians and motorists.

The government is struggling to maintain a universally praised free health and education system but the crisis raises questions about how long current standards can last.

In a desperate hunt for hard

currency to shore up the economy, Mr. Castro's ruling Communist Party has swallowed past scruples and opened sectors of the economy to foreign investment, especially in tourism, manufacturing and Cuba's fledgling bio-technology and medical industries.

The island has also sought foreign help to explore for oil and develop its considerable nickel reserves.

This openness has attracted the interest of businessmen from Europe, Latin America and Canada. But it remains to be seen whether the capital and knowledge brought by investors can fill the economic vacuum left by the Soviet Union and its East European partners.

A U.S. trade embargo is still firmly in place, despite Cuban attempts at the United Nations to have it lifted.

As links with Moscow and other former communist allies become more strained, Cuba has launched a diplomatic campaign to strengthen its ties with Latin American neighbours.

But relations with Latin Amer-

ica, still struggling with its own economic crisis, are problematic. Latin American governments are either unwilling to provide Cuba with free or concessional aid. A meeting of 13 presidents early this month showed they are anxious to foster economic and political change on the island.

A communique issued after the Rio group meeting expressed "profound concern for the situation and future of Cuba" and said Latin American leaders were ready to help it achieve "in peace, justice, liberty and democracy, binding human rights and an open and free economic development."

But the Cuban leadership is turning deaf ears to calls from both inside and outside for a move to Western-style multi-party politics or free-market policies.

Mr. Castro said in October that multi-party politics were "complete garbage." He has repeatedly argued that capitalism is a form of exploitation that has not solved any of the problems of the Third World.

His communist government has

been uncompromising in its response to any challenge, however slight, to its legitimacy and authority. Small, illegal opposition groups have surfaced and become more vocal but they remain isolated and highly vulnerable to resolute action by the authorities.

The latest example was in November, when Cuba's ruthlessly effective security police dismantled a small dissident group, Criterio Alternativo (alternative criterion), which had called for free elections and a multi-party system.

The group's leader, poet Maria Elena Cruz Varela, and six of her companions were sent to jail for one to two years on charges of holding illegal meetings, defaming state institutions and printing clandestine documents.

While rejecting the legalisation of rival parties, the Cuban Communist Party did move at a congress in October to widen its representative role. It lifted a ban on religious believers becoming members and recommended direct voting to elect deputies to the National Assembly.

Arabs postpone departure

(Continued from page 1)

In comments carried by the Associated Press, Dr. Majali referred to the Israeli decision to expel 12 Palestinians and said: "It is important to see Israel reverse its expulsion decision against the 12, and to put an end to its attempts to obstruct the Middle East peace drive."

"We hope that the U.S. would intercede (with Israel) and solve this problem and then all sides would go to the peace talks despite obstacles created by Israel," he was quoted as saying.

The U.S. State Department has issued a "strong condemnation" of the Israeli move. So did the British and French governments as well as the Russian Republic, which replaced the former Soviet Union as one of the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process.

In response to the criticism, Israel remained firm on its position that pressure of any form would not work with the Jewish state and that the expulsion was an issue related to its "security."

Dr. Majali said he did not expect the U.S. administration grant \$10 billion in loan guarantees sought by Israel without tangible progress in the peace process.

"It is unreasonable that the U.S. president would agree to

give Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees if no progress was achieved in the peace process," he said.

According to Dr. Majali, the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, have gained significantly from the peace process so far. "The West always had a negative attitude towards the Palestinian question and was always supportive of Israel," he said. "This has changed now. This is a great achievement for the Palestinian cause."

Two leading Syrian newspapers, meanwhile questioned the purpose of holding more talks with the Israelis.

"Whoever wants peace does not make daily announcements rejecting withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, and does not persist in the policy of repression and expulsion against the Palestinian people," the daily Tishrin said.

"It is irrational for the Arabs to continue to participate in peace talks without achieving minimum requirements at the level of implementing Resolutions 242 and 338," it said.

Al Thawra blamed the lack of progress on the United States. It said in an editorial: "Until now, America has shown no seriousness in sponsoring the talks and no desire to steer them out of the tunnel of manoeuvring..."

Israel refuses to budge

(Continued from page 1)

these things only when things reach a boiling point," Mr. Shamir said on Israel Television.

The defence ministry announced on Thursday the 12 Palestinians would be expelled from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in connection with attacks on Israeli soldiers and on fellow Palestinians.

The United States, Israel's most powerful ally, reacted to the decision in unusually strong language.

"The United States strongly condemns the Israeli government's decision to deport Palestinians. We have urged Israel at the highest levels to reconsider and to rescind this decision," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

France, Britain, Russia, Egypt and Jordan also criticised the expulsions, which would be the first since April.

Mr. Arens defended the decision by comparing it to the U.S. use of force in retaliation to acts of violence.

"We saw that when the Americans are battling terror they also use measures they see as effective including their air force, including their army in attacks against headquarters," Mr. Arens said.

He contended that a Palestinian boycott of the talks would suggest they were not interested in peace.

"If they (the Palestinian delegates) stick to this decision it will be the best sign that they don't distance themselves from these terrorist activities," he asserted.

U.S., U.K. and France pursue sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter was used when sanctions were imposed against Iraq in August 1990 for its invasion of Kuwait and carries a threat of enforcing them through naval blockades and other means.

Non-Aligned nations on the council as well as China, fearing big-power domination of the United Nations, have been reluctant to sanction any trade embargo. Diplomats said it might be particularly difficult in this case as the accused have not been tried and convicted.

This group has eight votes on the 15-member council and a minimum of nine is necessary to adoption of a resolution. Politically, more are needed to display council unity.

According to one Western diplomat, the three nations first wanted to get the council involved against Libya by adopting a mild resolution. These deliberations would give the United

States, France and Britain time to make a political assessment as to whether they could get sanctions adopted.

The diplomats, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said sanctions, if implemented, would not be as sweeping as those against Iraq. However, they may begin with an embargo against air traffic with Libya and denying the country spare parts for its aircraft.

Eventually they might include bans on sale of military equipment and a boycott of oil, Libya's main export.

The White House has said in the past that it would consider military action, such as the 1986 bombing of Libya, in retaliation for the attacks.

The three countries have accused Libyan intelligence officers of the bombings and called on Libya to hand them over for trial. Libya has detained two of the accused but has denied they were involved in any crime.

Putting Einstein through his (relative) paces

By Gerhard Börner

ALBERT EINSTEIN's general theory of relativity is the finest of all physical theories, the Indian Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar once said, reflecting a view held by many physicists who admire Einstein's theory of gravitation for its simplicity and coherence, characteristics that make it so convincing.

Relativity isn't a sleeping beauty waiting to be kissed to life by a latter-day Einstein. It is a living and highly attractive research sector, a notional structure framed over 75 years ago that appeals to the physicist's ambition to sound out the limits to its validity.

To date the general theory of relativity has passed all such tests with flying colours. It precisely describes the phenomena that accompany terrestrial and celestial gravity, and that particularly intrigues experimental physicists.

They plan new and even more exact experiments, a number of which were outlined at an international seminar on relativistic astrophysics and cosmology held in Potsdam.

The equivalence of "heavy"

and "inert" mass is a sine qua non of Einstein's theory. Heavy mass is a body's ability to attract others, while inertia is the ability of mass to resist changes in speed.

Galileo, 1564-1640, is said to have checked this equivalence. Newton, 1649-1727, demonstrated with 1-in-1,000 accuracy that different bodies of equal mass fall at the same speed.

The equivalence principle is now to be tested in a satellite version of Galileo's free fall tests with an accuracy of one in 100 trillion, as against a previous best of one in 100 billion.

As in Galileo's experiments, objects that differ in mass are to be sent into free fall, but not, this time, from atop the leaning tower of Pisa.

The experiments will be undertaken in terrestrial orbit, so the falling objects will not crash-land on terra firma but be subject to periodic differences in gravity as they orbit the Earth like mini-planets. In another experiment two small cylinders that can be slid into each other and are made of different materials are to circle the Earth on board a satellite. Code-named Step, this experi-



Albert Einstein

ment is planned for about the year 2000.

In yet another experiment precession, the slow gyration of the rotation axis of a spinning body about another line intersecting it so as to describe a cone caused by the application of a torque tending to change the direction of the rotation axis, is to be observed in orbit.

The general theory of relativity

predicts that precession will be triggered by the effect of the Earth's rotation on the spinning body and by the effect of its rotation on the orbital trajectory, a phenomenon known as geodetic precession.

Scientists hope to determine the position of the gyroscope's rotation axis to within 0.1 milliarc seconds (one milliarc second corresponds to the thickness of a human hair at a distance of 150km).

The emission of gravitational waves by mass on the move is another fundamental prediction of Einstein. Exact measurements of PSR 1913 and 1916, a twin pulsar, have indirectly confirmed his forecast.

Munich Max Planck Astrophysics Institute physicists played a leading role in the comprehensive mathematical approximations that needed to be devised to carry out this work.

The orbital period of the two neutron stars that make up this binary pulsar was shown to be reduced at exactly the same rate as the energy loss Einstein predicted in theory as accompanying the emission of gravitational

waves. Testing Einstein's theory is not the only interesting use to which gravitational waves can be put. They also provide astronomers with a new window through which to peer at events in far-off galaxies.

Direct measurement of gravitational waves is extraordinarily difficult. Experiments are planned in various countries to use a so-called laser interferometer as a gravitational wave antenna (in Germany a group of scientists at the Max Planck Quantum Optics Institute in Garching, near Munich, is involved in this project).

As in Albert Michelson's famous experiment in the early years of this century, the experiment in which he disproved the existence of "ether" in outer space, a laser beam is to be split by a semi-transparent mirror.

It will be passed along two arms at right angles to each other, then reflected back and reconstituted. A gravitational wave running through the instrument will cause a minute relative change in the length of the arms and a slight realignment of the two beams. This will take the form of a change of intensity when the laser beam is reconstituted. The sensitivity of this "antenna" will increase when the length of the two arms is increased by using mirrors.

The effect is to reflect the laser beam to and fro about 100 times until it is finally superimposed on itself, so that it covers an optical

distance 100 times that of the immediately apparent distance it crosses.

In the Munich-built prototype the mirrors are 30 metres apart. By reflecting the light about 100 times the scientists will make it cover an optical distance of roughly three kilometres.

They should then be in a position to register a relative change in length of one thousandth of a trillionth, or 10 to the power of minus 18.

That in turn would enable them to measure the gravitation wave emitted by a star collapsing somewhere in the Milky Way, and the full-scale experiment in planned to be about 100,000 times more sensitive than the prototype.

Signals from the gravitational collapse of a star, say a supernova explosion, up to 1,000 galaxies, or 50 million light years away, might then be registered.

If they can, a signal might be received about once every 10 days, whereas there is only one every 10 or 100 years in our own galaxy.

Munich scientists presented in Potsdam new calculations of gravitational waves that occur when a rotating star collapses. They estimate not just the energy emitted but the form the signal takes.

That is important for later measurements. A clearly defined signal can then be filtered out more clearly from the constant accompaniment of cosmic interference — Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich.

Sphinx is older than believed — study

BOSTON (AP) — The great Sphinx of Egypt is at least 2,500 to 4,500 years older than originally believed, according to a new study directed by a Boston University geologist.

A research team led by Robert M. Schoch concludes that an ancient civilisation carved the Sphinx between 5000 and 7000 B.C., university officials said Monday. That finding would make the Sphinx the oldest monument in Egypt.

The study will be formally presented Wednesday at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in San Diego. The Sphinx, which measures 73 metres long and about 20 metres high, depicts a mythological creature with the body of a lion and a human head. It stands at Giza, near Egypt's Great Pyramid.

Traditionally, its creation has been attributed to Pharaoh Khafre of the Old Kingdom Fourth Dynasty. But Mr. Schoch's study suggests that Khafre merely restored the monument.

Mr. Schoch characterised as circumstantial the evidence crediting Khafre with directing the monument's construction.

That evidence includes a statue of Khafre found in a nearby temple, the similarity between faces of Khafre and the Sphinx and an inscription on a pillar between the Sphinx's paws.

Mr. Schoch said the inscription, carved about 1,000 years

after Khafre's reign, suggests that Khafre either built or refurbished the Sphinx.

His expedition team based its conclusions primarily on patterns of weathering and erosion found both on the monument's surface and the ground surrounding it.

"The dramatic weathering we found on the body of the Sphinx is not seen on other structures in the immediate vicinity, even though many of them appear to have been cut or built from very similar or identical limestones and are supposed to have been built during the same period," Mr. Schoch said.

The team was the first granted permission to use seismic testing, or sound waves, to examine subsurface rock structures at the site. Mr. Schoch said testing showed that subsurface limestone at the front and sides of the Sphinx shows structural differences due to "weathering" to 2.5 metres deep.

Limestone at the back of the Sphinx, carved from the same bedrock, shows weathering only 1.2 metres deep.

"If the body has carved out of the same rock at one time, you would expect the limestone to show similar depths of weathering," Mr. Schoch said.

"One possible interpretation is that initially only the front of the body and head of the Sphinx were carved free from the rock, and projected out while the back and rear were still merged with the

original rock. Or it may have been freed from the rock originally, but only separated by a very narrow passage."

His research indicates that Khafre either carved or widened a passage at the back of the Sphinx. "Therefore, the major portion of the body must have been carved earlier," he said. The study also suggests that the Sphinx's head may have been

recarved at some point after its original construction.

Mr. Schoch, a tenured associate professor of science at Boston University's College of Basic Studies, holds Ph.D. in geology and geophysics from Yale University.

The expedition team also included Thomas L. Dobecki, a geophysicist at McBride-Ratcliff and Associates in Houston, and John Anthony West, an American Egyptologist.

An Expanding Jordanian Publishing Company Seeks To Hire A WRITER/EDITOR

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Qualified applicants should send their C.V. and samples of their work to: Publishers, P.O. Box 9446, Amman, Jordan, or by fax to 68751. The successful applicant would be expected to start work around Jan. 15.



HANDIWORK: A young man stands by his creation of a snowman Saturday in the vast white expanse of an Amman suburb following several days of blizzard in the Kingdom (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

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Harding expected to place high at U.S. Figure Skating Championships

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — The brief smile, the pumping fist, the look of sheer relief still shine brightly in the memory. They probably always will.

When Tonya Harding became the first American woman to hit a triple axel jump in competition, it was a magical moment in a sport that has provided many. The jump, and the flurry of perfect triples that followed, catapulted Harding to last year's U.S. Championship.

Now, with the Olympics a month away, Harding once again carries a load of questions into the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. That she will finish in the top three — barring an injury — seems certain, and that will put her on the Olympic team. That she will be the most athletic female skater in the event, which begins Tuesday with ice dance, also is a sure thing.

But winning a second straight crown and heading to Albertville as the Olympic favorite is anything but a lock. Harding's history is just too jumbled.

Since winning the championship at Minneapolis last year with the most dynamic free skate the nationals have seen in a decade, Harding has finished second to Kristi Yamaguchi in the World Championships; won Skate America with a clean but unspectacular program; withdrew from the NHK trophy in Tokyo, a major international competition, with a pulled back muscle and split with the re-joined, coach Body Teachman.

Harding once again is a confident skater. Beating Yamaguchi at Skate America helped. But knowing how much she can

achieve when healthy and confident — neither of which she was in 1990, when Harding slipped from third to seventh at the nationals — is more of a boost.

"I have a lot of faith in myself and in my skating," she said. "I know what I can do when I'm on."

Yamaguchi finished behind Japan's Midori Ito at the prestigious Liqueur Trophy in Albertville. Her recent programmes have lacked the sparkle that marked her quick ascension in the sport. With 1990 World Champion Jill Trenary still not fully healthy after missing the 1991 season, the three Olympic spots should go to the 21-year-old Harding, Yamaguchi, 20, and Nancy Kerrigan, 22, who was third at both the 1991 nationals and worlds. Trenary withdrew from the Orlando, event last month.

Holly Cook, the 1990 bronze medalist in the worlds and nationals, retired last year. Most of the other women are too young and inexperienced to challenge the top three.

The men's field is harder to handicap — except at the top. Todd Eldredge, the two-time defending champion, has fully recovered from foot injury. His usual main competitor, Christopher Bowman, is with yet another coach and has not been seen on the ice often enough in training to be considered a threat.

"I was supposed to do Liqueur, but because of a stress fracture in my left foot, I had to withdraw," said Eldredge, who even has cut back on his golf outings recently to devote full time to skating, showing just how serious he is. "It mostly hurt on the jumps and

a lot on the landings, and any of the jumps when I would take off or pick in with that foot. It kind of limited me. I would still try to do everything, but knowing my foot was hurting and the pain was there was difficult."

But Eldredge, 20, has been working hard in San Diego, while John Nicks, Bowman's third official coach in 18 months, hasn't been getting nearly as much from the 1989 national champion.

Bowman had better watch out. The rest of the men's field is stacked, with Paul Wylie, Mark Mitchell, Michael Chack, Shepherd Clark leading the charge.

Innovative Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow are favoured in the dance, particularly in view of the health problems of April Sargent-Thomas.

Sargent-Thomas underwent surgery on an ovarian cyst in late December and doctors have told her not to train. She and partner Russ Witherby have said they will enter the nationals, however.

Two Olympic spots are available in dance. Pairs champions Natasha Kuchik and Todd Sand also have struggled, with Sand having injured himself. But the world bronze medalists have little to fear from a relatively weak crop. Unlikely as it may seem, Orlando is host next week for the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, which will determine the country's Olympic competitors.

The United States' premiere figure skating event, being held for the first time in Florida, will bring some 250 top skaters to this ice-free tourist city more com-

monly known for Mickey Mouse and Cinderella.

The eight days of figure skating begin Tuesday. Selections for the Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, and the World Championships at Oakland, California, will be made in the Orlando event.

The major factors in bringing the National Championships to Orlando, says Jerry Varney, chairman of the local organising committee, were the city's new 15,000-seat arena and its reputation for wholesome family entertainment.

Florida also is being perceived in skating circles as a new frontier for grooming champions.

Orlando had some stiff competition when local organisers threw in a bid for the prestigious event in 1988. Traditionally, the nationals are held in cold-weather sites — the last three were at Baltimore, Salt Lake City and Minneapolis.

"We were definitely the underdog into the race to land the championships," said Varney. "We were up against Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New Haven, Connecticut, and Greensboro, North Carolina, cities with legions of skating enthusiasts and skating clubs with experience in organising national competitions."

Orlando had neither legions nor experience. But strong local support and good preparation went out over the other finalist, Philadelphia. It helped that the Orlando area has become something of a media centre in the south, although the nationals that serve as Olympic trials always attract attention.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Top Australian women reach final

BRISBANE, Australia (R) — Australia's top women, Rachel McQuillan and Nicole Provis, beat off the foreign challenge Saturday to reach the final of the Australian Hardcourt Women's Tennis Tournament. It will be the first final between two Australians in a world tour event since Evonne Goolagong beat Dianne Fromholtz in the U.S. Indoor Championship in October 1979. "This is great for Australian women's tennis whichever way the final turns out," McQuillan said after beating American Debbie Graham 7-5 6-4. "I won't feel so bad if I lose." McQuillan, who was 4-0 down in the second set, reeled off six straight games to take the match against the big-hitting Graham in one hour, 28 minutes. Provis beat 16-year-old Bulgarian prodigy Magdalena Maleeva 4-6 7-5 6-2 to reach her first tour final in an eight-year career. There were 20 service breaks with Provis, 22, holding her own serve just six times.

S. Africa names soccer squad

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African soccer officials named a 25-strong national squad Saturday, confident their return to international competition is imminent. The squad was announced hours before a delegation from the South African Football Association (SAFA) was scheduled to leave for Dakar, Senegal, where it will apply for readmission to the Confederation of African Football (CAF). The CAF is expected to review the application at a meeting next Friday. "We are all confident of getting accepted into CAF and such is our optimism we decided to name a squad before we left for Senegal," SAFA Secretary General Solomon Morewa told a news conference. South Africa's now-abandoned apartheid policies caused their expulsion from the CAF and the world soccer controlling body FIFA in 1976. Securing provisional FIFA membership through the CAF is the country's next priority. Morewa added that Cameroon would be the first international side invited to play in South Africa after its readmission to international soccer, but declined to be drawn further on possible tours.

Piquet creates own Formula 3,000 team

MONACO (R) — Former world Formula One champion Nelson Piquet said Friday he was launching his own Formula 3,000 team to help his protégé Olivier Beretta in his motor-racing apprenticeship. The Piquet Racing Team, which will start the 1992 season, is to be based at Britain's Snetterton Circuit, the Brazilian said. Under Piquet's guidance, Monaco citizen Beretta won a Formula 3,000 Grand Prix in Pau, France, last season.

Kasparov, Gelfand and Anand lead

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy (R) — World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov, Boris Gelfand of Belarus and India's Viswanathan Anand shared a three-day lead at the annual Reggio Emilia tournament Saturday. Kasparov was in a difficult position after his game with Valery Salov of Russia ended in a draw after 26 moves and five hours of play Friday. Gelfand, using a French defence, also drew after 36 moves against Kasparov's second, Mikhail Gurevich, who did not play his best. Former world champion Anatoly Karpov was a pawn ahead of Russia's Lev Polugayevski but they, too, drew after 23 moves.

Slalom to be held in Garmisch

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (AP) — A men's World Cup slalom race that had to be cancelled in St. Anton, Austria, has been rescheduled for Jan. 13 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, organisers said. The slalom will follow a downhill and a super-giant slalom scheduled for Jan. 11-12. With the downhill, the slalom will also count as a combination, a paper race that awards World Cup points to the top finishers in both events. The slalom originally had been scheduled for Dec. 22 in St. Anton, but had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Meanwhile, organisers of a women's World Cup slalom and giant slalom on Jan. 5-6 in Oberstaufen, Germany, inspected the course and said the races can go ahead as planned.

Foggia get Papal boost for Sunday's match

VATICAN CITY (R) — Players from the Italian first division soccer club Foggia had a team talk with a difference Saturday when they met Pope John Paul at the Vatican. "Conduct yourselves so that your game and your lives are an example to young people and a spur for them to always try harder and do better," the Pope said. "I give you my blessing," he added during an audience before Sunday's clash with Lazio. "I wish you and all who work behind the scenes at the club well."

Cash to play for German league club

HAMBURG (R) — Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash plans to play several matches for German League Tennis Team Club an Der Alster Hamburg this season, the club said. The club

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There could be all sorts of new arrangements and changes with people in your immediate circle which you will need to go along with because they provide unique opportunities for you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to stick to what you have agreed to do and to get your health and surroundings on a better basis by working along on some project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Listen to what others have to say and make no comments that they could regard as a slap in the face in anyway and show you value their opinions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can get in an unfortunate fracas with those at home unless you sidestep any discussions and the best way is to be out in the world of action doing errands.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Use more than average care on the highway or in motion in anyway and show you are the one who can from making any sarcastic remarks.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A day to be sure that you do use much in the handling of money for you are naturally a generous person and it can flow through your fingers.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever means the most to you personally should be looked at

close but not pushed today and you then find you improve appearance and vitality.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You feel you have so many limitations that you are being imposed upon and abused by those you can do little about but avoid martyr complex.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You want to join with friends and acquaintances at the hang-outs that are mutually interesting to you both but they are preoccupied with own personal anxieties.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have an urge to get out in the world and show how independent you really feel but you could anger one in power and lose good will.

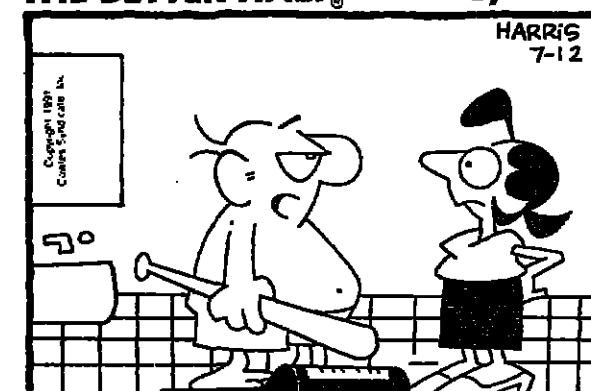
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are a considerable number of important new ideas that are now yours but they require a considerable amount of study before putting in motion.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you are able to get at whatever projects you have to do that is expected of you by another and to get it in back of you even though it brings you no joy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have an associate with whom you are eager to reach a new and a better agreement but this is certainly not the day to discuss your plans.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



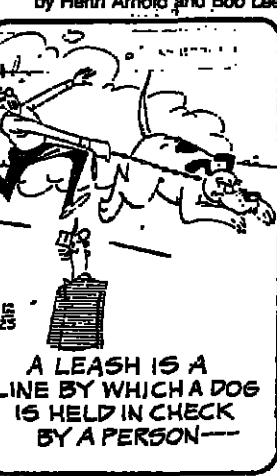
"My doctor told me to exercise. Smashing the scales should burn a few calories!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BROIN
WALBY
TEVLE
CUSSEN



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: OR

Saturday's Jumbles: ENACT MAKER CIRCUS HAUNCH

Answer: What a guy who leaves too much to chance hasn't got—MUCH OF A CHANCE

Victory for Vatanen as Mitsubishi team relaxes

PARIS (R) — Pace-setting Mitsubishi relaxed Friday, allowing pre-race favourites Citroen to strike back in the 663-km ninth stage of the Paris-Cape Town Rally.

Four-times Paris-Dakar winner Ari Vatanen of Finland was fastest in the 151-km timed section, leading the way from Chad to Bouar in the Central African Republic ahead of Citroen team mate Bjorn Waldegard of Sweden.

But France's Hubert Auriol finished fifth to keep his overall lead from Mitsubishi drivers

Erwin Weber of Germany and Japan's Kenjiro Shinozuka.

Mitsubishi manager Ulrich Brehmer decided his team boasted a sufficient lead and strength in depth to cut out the risks over some tricky terrain.

Auriol said: "There were lots of trees and termite hills to avoid. We drove very calmly today." Weber felt they had driven too quickly on Thursday's stage. "We attacked too much," the German said. "We must not take any risks now and we must drive conservatively."

These stages are more for the

driver than the navigator, but they are still not very nice. The are very narrow and sometimes a little dangerous in places with big holes in the road and bad bumps."

Auriol leads by more than half an hour midway through the 24-day race, with five Citroens trailing the top trio by up to five hours.

On Saturday the race moves away from the familiar trails used in the Paris-Dakar Rally for the past 13 years in a 660-km stage Bouar to Yaounde.

Meanwhile two children were

injured, one of them seriously, when a car left the road and struck them during the Paris-Cape Town Rally Friday.

The unidentified car was on its front from Chad to the Central African Republic.

Gilbert Sabine, president of the organising body, said the children were taken to hospital by helicopter.

A week ago two Frenchmen died when their Land Rover crashed in central Libya. Both were part of twice world sports car champion Jean-Louis Schlesser's support team.

Bergamelli wins 1st 1992 World Cup ski race

KRANJSKA GORA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Unheralded Sergio Bergamelli of Italy won the New Year's first World Cup ski race Saturday, outpacing favourite Alberto Tomba and other veterans in a giant slalom event.

Bergamelli, 21, already looked unbeatable after a first run of 1 minute 09.15 seconds, but managed to extend his lead with a second run of 1:09.03, for a total of 2:18.18.

His performance left veteran Hans Pieren of Switzerland still looking for his first season vic-

tory. Pieren, 31, was more than two seconds behind and second with a total time of 2:20.40.

Tomba, cheered on by about 6,000 Italian fans, improved only marginally on his fourth-place first-run showing. He was third after both runs, with a time of 2:20.

Beaming after his first World Cup victory, Bergamelli, a former junior World Cup champion who started 34th Saturday, was mobbed by the Italians and hoisted on their shoulders.

Bergstrom meets Ivanisevic in Adelaide tennis final

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — Sweden's Christian Bergstrom qualified Saturday for his first singles final, earnings a duel with top seed Goran Ivanisevic in the South Australia Men's Tennis Tournament.

Both made it to the final without losing a set. Bergstrom won an absorbing semifinal against German sixth seed Carl-Uwe Steeb 7-6 (9-7) 6-4.

Ivanisevic, who has been suffering from an injury to his left elbow, had an easier time beating American Bryan Shelton 6-4 6-2

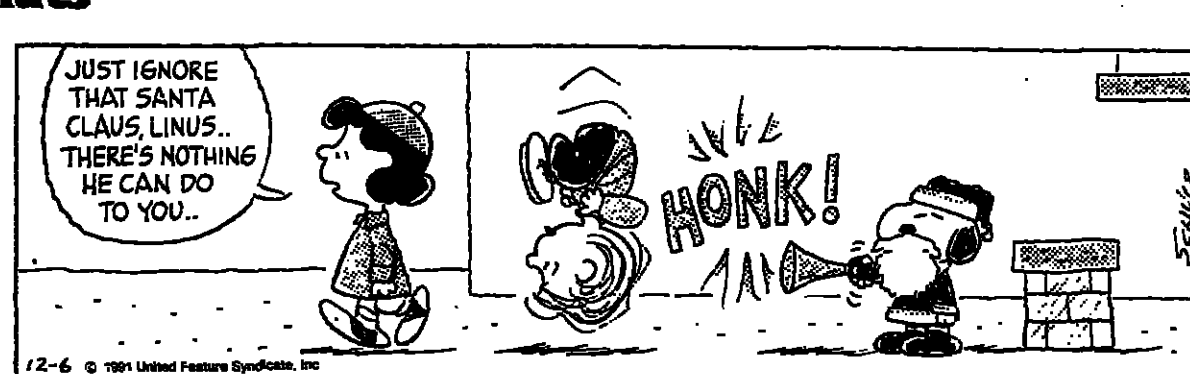
after Shelton twisted his left ankle in the first set.

The big-serving Croat said his elbow was better but still hurt and he did not enjoy the match, played in windy conditions.

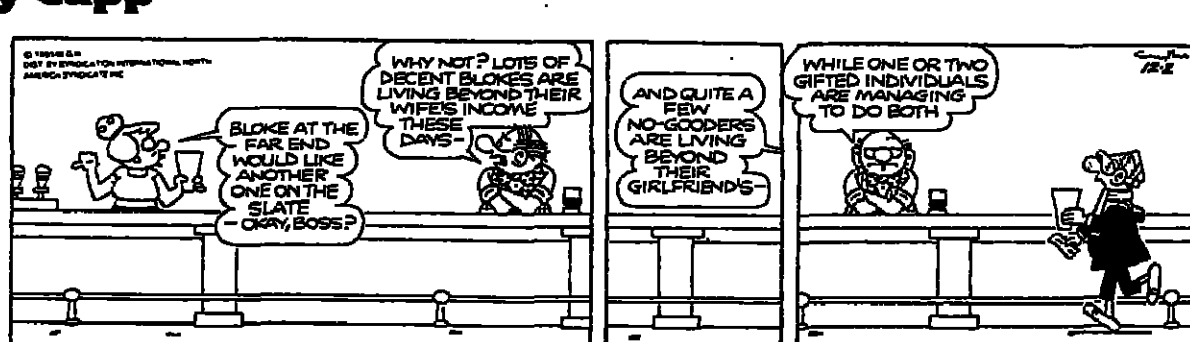
Shelton, his ankle heavily strapped, said he would undergo four or five days of physiotherapy before deciding whether he would be fit for the Australian Open on Jan. 15.

Bergstrom, 24, trailed Steeb 5-2 in the first set but fought back to hold two set points when Steeb was serving at 6-5.

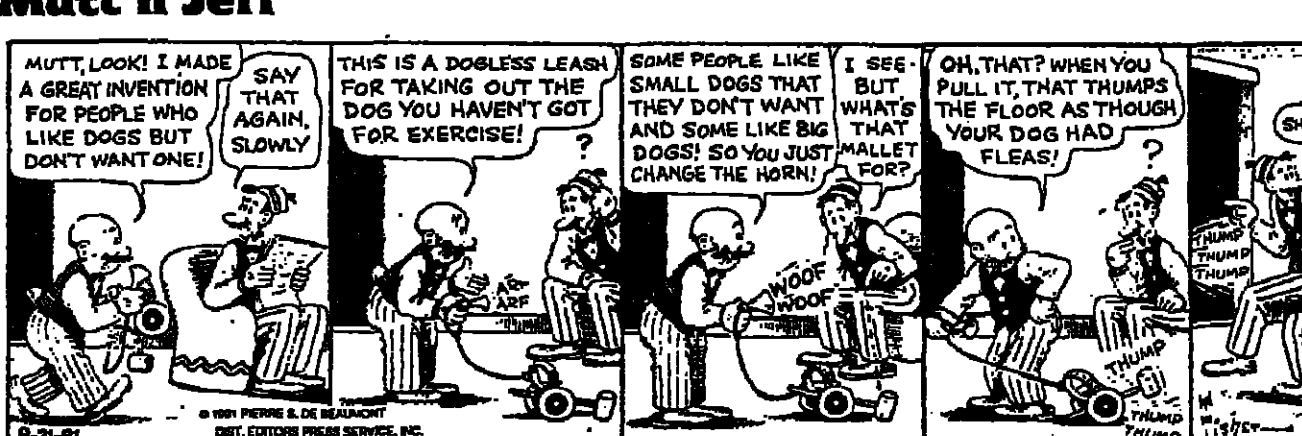
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AKQ 76 43 ♠J53
 Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?
 A.—While there are those who might advocate a takeout double, we feel that a simple two-diamond overcall is more descriptive. We can foresee all sorts of problems if you double, especially if partner persists in spades and is forced to ruff heart losers with your high trumps.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AKQ 76 43 ♠J53
 The bidding has proceeded:
 East South West North
 1♥ 2♦ Pass 3♠
 Pass ?
 What action do you take?
 A.—You think you owe partner a bid. If North has a heart stopper, three no trump could be a viable contract. The way to find out is to bid three spades now.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠AKQ 76 43 ♠J53
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1♠ Pass 1♦ Pass
 ?
 What action do you take?
 A.—You have an enormous hand, but you cannot guarantee it will produce game—your void in partner's suit is a liability. We decline making a jump shift when we don't know where we're going, especially since our first suit lacks quality. Bid one spade.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AJ4 76J 43 ♠Q88762 410
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 Pass Pass 1♥ 2♥
 3♥ ?
 "Weak"

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠7 43 ♠AKQJ83 94 ♠A873
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 4♠ Pass Pass ?
 What action do you take?
 A.—To pass would be chicken—the opponents could be stealing you blind. It's a question of whether to make a takeout double or show your suit. We prefer five hearts. The suit is quite solid and whatever partner has in clubs will mesh well with your hand.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠AK742 7A105 4A76 4K5
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass ?
 ?
 What do you bid now?
 A.—You want to be in game, but there's no need to commit your side to four spades unilaterally. Show the balanced nature of your hand with jumpers to three no trump! With an unbalanced hand, partner can still correct to four spades.

Handwritten note: "Handwritten text in a box at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or a note related to the crossword puzzle."

Handwritten text in a box at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or a note related to the crossword puzzle.

Dow Jones cracks 3,200 barrier

NEW YORK (Agencies) — U.S. stocks soared to their sixth successive record close Friday, cracking through the 3,200 barrier in a post-holiday buying binge.

"The power is really something," said John Brooks, an analyst at Davis, Meadell and Regenstein. "You really don't want to get in the way."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 29.07 points, or nearly one per cent, at a record 3,201.48. The Dow gained an impressive 99.96 points for the

week.

Virtually every other index entered the record books with all-time closing highs. Volume was a strong 219.2 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), where gains swamped losers 1,078-649.

It was a stunning 11th straight gain for the market, which has been climbing since the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, sharply cut interest rates on Dec. 20 in a bid to renew economic growth.

The rally gave the Dow its

biggest December gain ever and has offered no sign of letting up at the start of the new year.

"I think the rally is really feeding on itself now," said Michael Metz of Oppenheimer Co.

Wall Street is also betting that Washington will aid the economy, the biggest in the world, in this election year. President George Bush is due to unveil his economic package in his state of the union address this month.

Investors gobbled up battered blue chips, some of which had fallen to their lowest levels in years. Auto companies were a favorite Friday, gaining smartly even as Detroit wrestles with its biggest losses ever.

Wall Street is buying on the prospect that the economy has bottomed out and can only go up, especially if the soaring market and low interest rates helps to restore badly slumping consumer confidence.

The NASDAQ over-the-counter index rose 6.20 to a record 592.65, while the Standard Poor's index of 500 stocks gained 2.07 to a record 419.33.

The American Stock Exchange

index closed up 3.32 at a record 398.83, topping its previous high of 397.03 reached on Oct. 10, 1989.

The NYSE composite index of all listed common stocks gained 1.18 to a record 30.35. The average price per share gained 19 cents on the big board.

The Wilshire Associates Equity index, the market value of NYSE, American and NASDAQ issues, hit a record 4,060,972, up 23,845, or 0.59 per cent.

Meanwhile, congressional leaders promised speedy action on the economy as they convened its 1992 session Friday.

But sharp partisan differences over how to stimulate economic growth emerged almost immediately, foretelling a difficult path toward any legislative solution.

Senate majority leader George Mitchell, a Maine Democrat, told reporters that economic growth was "clearly the most pressing need of the country today."

Followed by education and health care it would be the first priority of this year's session, he said.

After a brief Senate meeting to make the official transition to the second session of the two-year 102nd Congress, two top Democratic lawmakers held a news conference to unveil their economic package.

Senators Jim Sasser of Tennessee, chairman of the Budget Committee, and Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, called for temporarily putting aside deficit concerns to provide roughly \$55 billion in new federal spending.

A big chunk of that money would go to state and local government to ease some of the belt-tightening and tax increases they've been forced to initiate. In addition, the federal government would temporarily cut income taxes to help spur consumer demand.

"We've got to throw some of the fiscal ballast overboard" or suffer an extended economic downturn, said Mr. Sarbanes, who blamed President Bush for the loss of public confidence in the economy.

Mr. Sasser and Mr. Sarbanes both said they also favoured long-

term cuts in military spending to finance domestic needs, something Mr. Bush is reportedly considering as part of the economic package he'll reveal in the state of the union address later this month.

But Senator Pete Domenici, senior Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, ridiculed his colleagues for proposing to add to a federal deficit already expected to hit \$350 billion this year.

The House, like the Senate, held a similar transition session Friday, and majority leader Richard Gephardt, a Missouri Democrat, renewed his call for a middle-class tax cut.

"Rather than rewarding the wealthy with another capital gains tax cut, we've got to get money into the hands of working Americans," he said.

House Republican whip Newt Gingrich warned that Democrats were again trying to promote the "liberal welfare state" instead of capital gains and other policies he contends spur economic growth. Talking to reporters afterward, he also urged caution on cutting Pentagon spending.

S. Arabia moves ahead to acquire foreign crude oil storage facilities

DUBAI (R) — The world's biggest crude oil exporter, Saudi Arabia, is stepping up its drive to secure more storage facilities close to major oil consuming centres.

Gulf oil industry sources said the drive was part of a new policy to ensure the kingdom's oil was near markets when there is a surge in demand.

They were commenting on an oil industry newsletter report that Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company Saudi Aramco, through its Bolater subsidiary, had agreed to buy 5.2 million barrels of storage in the Bahamas for \$51 million.

Saudi Aramco officials refused to comment on the agreement.

Oil industry executives in the Gulf said the reported deal was part of a new oil policy aimed at retaining oil market share by vertical integration — from production pumps at desert oilfields to petrol pumps in big consuming states.

"This does not surprise me. They (Saudis) want to expand storage facilities wherever possible close to the consumers," a Gulf-based oil economist said.

The main objective of Saudi Arabia's new policy is to boost oil production capacity to ten million barrels per day (b/d) by 1995. It is spending billions of dollars to make sure it will have the means to keep output at that level.

The country is known to have over 4.2 million barrels of capacity storage facilities at Aruba in the Caribbean as well as smaller facilities at Rotterdam and the Suez Canal in Egypt.

The kingdom also uses a large number of supertankers as floating storage depending on demand.

These are no more than a drop in the ocean of Saudi oil which flows at the rate of 8.5 million barrels per day but could have significant effects in short-term oil trading, the sources said.

A fully-laden super tanker can take more than a month to reach the eastern coast of the United States but oil stored in the Bahamas or on floating storage tankers can get there within a day or two, they added.

Saudi Arabia also wants to acquire a large fleet of supertankers to carry up to 70 per cent of its crude exports, a chain of onshore crude storage facilities and stakes in refineries at or close to large consuming centres.

It already has a refining and

distribution joint venture in the United States with Texaco and another with Ssangyong in South Korea.

It has plans for feasibility studies with Nippon Oil to build refineries, one in Japan and one in Saudi Arabia. European industry sources say a deal with Total-CFP of France on a refining and distribution joint venture under discussion.

The kingdom's recent drive to add to its onshore oil storage includes the following:

- It is negotiating to store 10 to 40 million barrels of crude in facilities to be built by 1995 South Korean officials said.
- December their government would build the storage and Saudi Arabia would lease them to supply fast growing oil consuming centres in Asia, like Japan and Taiwan.

Saudi Arabia — again through Bolater — in August bought 35 per cent of Texaco's 3.8 million barrel Maersk storage terminal at Rotterdam to serve its European customers.

The kingdom already has over four million barrels of storage at the Caribbean and the recent acquisition from Burmah will raise its capacity to keep oil close to the United States market to over nine million barrels.

— It also wants more storage tanks at the terminals of 1 million b/d capacity Suez Canal line which carries crude oil from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean.

The kingdom, which already has four tanks with 90,000 b/d capacity each under lease at the terminals, wants to obtain more tanks of the same capacity.

Apart from onshore storage facilities, the kingdom's tank chartering and management arm Vela, uses up to 20 very large crude carriers (VLCCs) and larger ultra large crude carriers (ULCCs) at a given time to transport and store crude at the Caribbean, north west Europe and the Far East.

Vela recently embarked on an ambitious plan for its own tank fleet by ordering six 280,000 DWT VLCCs worth over \$74 million to Japanese shipyards.

Saudi Aramco is also considering a similar order of six VLCC each worth again some \$70 million. The order is expected to go to South Korean and Danish companies soon.

Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	New York Close
	Dec 21/1991	Dec 31/1991
Sterling Pound*	1.8465	1.8490
Deutsche Mark	1.5300	1.5430
Swiss Franc	1.3660	1.3748
French Franc	5.2265	5.2648
Japanese Yen	124.38	124.65
European Currency Unit	—	1.3195

* USD Per STG

** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.06	4.06	4.12	4.25
Sterling Pound	10.50	10.62	10.62	10.56
Deutsche Mark	9.37	9.37	9.37	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.81	8.00	8.00	7.93
French Franc	10.15	10.06	9.94	9.79
Japanese Yen	5.56	5.46	5.31	5.15
European Currency Unit	10.18	10.18	10.13	10.00

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Commodity	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	350.90	6.75	Silver	3.97	.085

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6770	0.6790
Sterling Pound	1.2501	1.2564
Deutsche Mark	0.4382	0.4404
Swiss Franc	0.4920	0.4945
French Franc	0.1285	0.1291
Japanese Yen*	0.5427	0.5454
Dutch Guilder	0.3694	0.3713
Swedish Krona	0.1202	0.1208
Italian Lira*	0.0581	0.0584
Belgian Franc	0.2128	0.2139

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7660	1.7750
Lebanese Lira*	0.0769	0.0775
Saudi Riyal	0.1802	0.1808
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1836	0.1845
Egyptian Pound	0.0000	0.0100
Omani Riyal	1.7330	1.7410
UAE Dirham	0.1836	0.1845
Greek Drachma*	0.3600	0.3690
Cypriot Pound	1.5230	1.5580

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	25/12/1991 Close	1/1/1992 Close
All-Share	129.23	131.29
Banking Sector	106.07	108.02
Insurance Sector	128.77	129.66
Industry Sector	163.47	165.75
Services Sector	145.41	145.87

December 31, 1991 - 1992

Confusion still reigns on Russia's free market

MOSCOW (R) — Russian shoppers and shopkeepers alike struggled Saturday to come to terms with a three-day-old price liberalisation that has produced wild price variations but little in the way of goods.

Many had hoped free prices — mostly two to five times higher than those formerly set by the state — would lure on to the shelves stocks that producers had been holding back.

But so far in vain.

"All at once we understood there was nothing in the storehouses of the motherland that could fill people up, shoe or clothes them, even at a higher price," Izvestia newspaper said.

Russia abolished almost all state prices Thursday in what its President Boris Yeltsin sees as a painful but necessary way to make the transition from Marxist to market economy.

Mr. Yeltsin's government, which has taken advantage of the collapse of Soviet power to push through the drastic reforms, stuck to its guns.

"The Russian government has worked out no alternative plan for a time when it becomes clear whether price liberalisation has worked or not," Yegor Gaidar, Mr. Yeltsin's chief economist, told TASS news agency.

"We are sticking to 'orthodox' stabilisation methods which we have worked out in close cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund," he said.

The United States Friday urged the World Bank and IMF to give early consideration to membership for republics of the former Soviet Union. An IMF team is due in Moscow Sunday to help develop Russia's reform programme.

Ukraine and Belarus — the two other republics which launched the new Commonwealth of Independent States that has replaced the Soviet Union — followed suit hastily. Other republics have followed or said they will do so in days.

But across the commonwealth, confusion reigned among shopkeepers on how to set prices, and among shoppers on how much to pay.

In Voronezh, south of Moscow, shoppers who managed to track down potatoes could buy them at the same price as in December.

But another staple, milk, priced around 0.50 roubles a litre (half a cent at the Russian central bank rate) before the price rise, was being sold at prices ranging from 2.70 roubles to 10 roubles in various parts of the commonwealth.

In Samara, on the Volga River, it could be had for 1.20 because a local government was paying a subsidy to offset producer prices of four roubles or more.

But the news there was not all good. Peas, grain and noodles were available, but none were being sold because ration coupons for 1992 had not been issued yet.

To add to the confusion, although prices have been freed, supply contracts have not.

The failure to dismantle state monopolies and create a competitive environment before freeing prices has been a key focus of opposition from some members of Mr. Yeltsin's parliament, and also his vice-president Alexander Rutskoi.

Uncertainty kept Samara's dairy shops from concluding a single supply agreement for the new year.

"No one knows if there will be a state order, a compulsory quota or complete market freedom," Izvestia reported.

A Nizhny Novgorod milk factory complained that at present prices it could not hope to sell more than 100 tonnes of milk a day but has still obliged to buy 180 tonnes from suppliers.

"Who owns our plants and factories? the government. Who do the shops belong to? the government. Where can the consumer go if goods seem too expensive? nowhere," commented the popular daily Moskovsky Komsomolets.

Printing presses churning out cash around the clock failed to keep pace with the demand for money, but with few exceptions, shop shelves that have been empty for months failed to fill.

"Have you heard about free prices? One Moscow shopper joked wryly. "You go into a shop, look at the prices — and you're free to go."

Armenia and Kazakhstan said Friday they would follow, joining Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. All fear goods could migrate on to the free Russian market if they do not keep pace with their giant neighbour.

Moscow suburban shops were empty of goods and people Friday, although a few well-stocked shops in the centre drew short queues of affluent Muscovites to buy goods which have been unavailable for months.

The price of sour cream, a staple of Russian cooking which last week sold for 0.60 roubles a glass (half a cent at the Russian central bank rate), rose to 18 roubles in Tula, to the south of Moscow, and 69 roubles in Yaroslavl, to the north. The average wage is around 300 roubles a month.

In one factory in Ternopol, Ukraine, resignation gave way to anger when workers staged a wildcat strike at the prospect of paying a mere 11.80 roubles for their sour cream.

Mr. Yeltsin's first deputy finance minister Andrei Nekhayev said in an interview published in Friday's Trud newspaper that stabilisation of Russia's economy in 1993 should be preceded by manageable inflation of around 10 per cent a month.

"If we manage to hold down the budget, then after a sharp rise in prices as a result of liberalisation inflation should stay high but not catastrophically high — in spring and summer it (should be) around 10 per cent a month," he said.

But pressure for higher wages to keep pace with prices suggested hyperinflation was here to stay.

Russian parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov told deputies that money presses, already churning around the clock, could not keep pace with the demand for cash, despite the introduction of a new 500-rouble note a month ago.

A new 1,000-rouble note is already being prepared.

The rouble, its value heavily eroded by inflation, is rapidly losing its status as the sole legal currency to a bewildering array of payment methods.

Belarus started to issue payment coupons, a half-step towards an independent currency, despite an agreement with other republics to keep the rouble.

Ukraine is going the same, so that shoppers must now present a mixture of cash, payment coupons, ration coupons and certificates of local residence to be entitled to buy goods.

Iranian non-oil exports rise 113%

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has said that its non-oil exports jumped 113 per cent to \$1.56 billion in the eight months to Nov. 21.

Vice-President Hassan Ebrahimi Habibi told reporters the surge was spurred by a threefold increase in Persian carpets and handicrafts sales to \$700 million, Tehran radio said.

Iran is giving priority to non-oil exports which have accounted for less than 10 per cent of its hard currency revenue over the past decade.

"If we only rely on oil revenue, by the year 2000 our oil exports will suffice only for the wheat imports we would need," the radio quoted parliamentary speaker Mehdi Karubi as saying at a seminar on improving wheat farming.

Iran earned \$16.5 billion from oil sales and \$1.3 billion from other exports in the year to March 20.

Mr. Habibi said Iran's steel production in the nine months to Dec. 21 had increased by 68 per cent to just over two million tonnes. Copper and aluminium outputs were also up.

Crematory job attracts more than 100 in desperate times

DUXBURY, Massachusetts (AP) — In a grim sign of the times, more than 100 people looking for steady work have applied for the job of crematory at a Massachusetts town cemetery.

Cemetery supervisor William Malcolm says he's looking for someone who can deal sensitively with relatives of the deceased and someone with a strong stomach.

Some candidates don't know what a crematory is, and they "give you that strange look" when they hear the details, Mr. Malcolm said Friday.

But anyone who seriously wants the job will have to watch a cremation before being hired, he said.

"It's a shocker if you've never seen one before," Mr. Malcolm said. "This way it's going to separate guys with stomachs from guys without stomachs."

While interviewing Paul Holmes, an unemployed carpenter, for the job, Mr. Malcolm explained that operators must deal with bodies that have dissected for autopsies and for scientific research. They range from infants to the elderly. The largest corpse weighed 745 pounds (335 kilograms), and the oldest was 102.

"When you start handling the people sometimes they will be dead four to five days," Mr. Malcolm told Mr. Holmes. "It's not channel No. 5, let's put it that way."

Mr. Holmes, 33, was not dissuaded.

"I need a secure job because where I am now (getting odd jobs), there's nothing secure,"

Mr. Holmes said. "This is the worst I've ever seen it."

The crematory job, which pays \$10.63 an hour for a 40-hour week, comes with health benefits, two weeks' vacation and a retirement plan.

Since death strikes even in poor economy, the crematory business provides constant work. The Duxbury facility, 40 miles (64 kilometres) south of Boston serves most of southeastern Massachusetts.

The crematory is located next to the town's Mayflower Cemetery, which includes many generations of families descended from pilgrims, who followed John and Miles Standish to the picturesque seaside community.

Last year, 1,085 bodies were cremated there, bringing in more than \$150,000. The cost of cremation is \$140 for adults and older children, \$95 for children under 10.

Serious Fraud Office widens Maxwell inquiry

LONDON (AP) — The Serious Fraud Office said Friday it has widened its investigation into Maxwell affairs to include the alleged removal of assets from Maxwell Communication Corp. PLC (MCC).

The Serious Fraud Office, a prosecuting agency, said those assets included cash and investments, but didn't elaborate.

It said the inquiry follows investigations by the accounting firm Price Waterhouse, which has compiled a report on MCC for its bankers. That report hasn't been released.

Three Price Waterhouse accountants now are court-appointed administrators to MCC, which has sought bankruptcy court protection from creditors in Britain and the United States. The company owns the U.S. publisher Macmillan Inc. and the Overseas Airline Guides.

The Serious Fraud Office's latest inquiry is its fifth into Maxwell affairs.

It already has announced it is investigating an alleged scheme to support the price of MCC's stock; the management of the pension funds of MCC's sister public company, Mirror Group Newspapers PLC and missing Mirror Group funds.

The Serious Fraud Office also is investigating a Swiss Bank Corp. complaint that a private Maxwell company failed to provide Japanese securities as collateral for a \$55 million (\$102 million) loan.

In the months before he died mysteriously at sea on Nov. 5, the late Robert Maxwell allegedly took more than \$1.2 billion from his companies and their pension funds to support MCC's stock, service debts and cover operating losses.

Maxwell would have wanted to see a high MCC share price because he pledged MCC shares as collateral for loans to his private companies.

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Russia welcomes U.N. Council summit

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Russia is supporting a proposal by Britain for a 15-nation Security Council summit on the future of the United Nations which would also discuss the breakup of the Soviet Union.

No date has been set for the unprecedented session. If it occurs, it would probably take place in January when Britain holds the Security Council presidency. Prime Minister John Major would be able to chair the meeting.

Russia's ambassador, Yuli Vorontsov, said in answer to questions Friday that the meeting was a good idea if its aim was to "enhance the authority of the Security Council."

Mr. Major is contacting the heads of council governments to canvass support for a meeting that would focus on the United Nations, as well as implications of the Soviet Union's demise including the need to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee said he could not comment on the meeting but reminded reporters that French President Francois Mitterrand had made a similar suggestion.

The summit would also permit Russia's President Boris Yeltsin to make his debut as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council and underscore his commitment to work through the United Nations on disarmament and other issues, diplomats said.

But Mr. Yeltsin's very presence could raise sensitive questions about the manner in which the Russian Federation assumed the Soviet Union's seat.

With the help of the United States, Britain and France, Russia moved quickly without debate to assume the Soviet Union's membership in the United Na-

tions and all its bodies so there would be no discussion of reforming the U.N. charter.

The changeover was an opportunity for Security Council reform with pressure growing among many U.N. member states over its composition.

Germany has been quiet on the issue but Japan, another of the world's economic giants, feels its U.N. status is not commensurate with its world standing.

Both were defeated members of the World War II axis powers when permanent Security Council seats were handed out in 1954 to the chief allied victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France.

Some countries have suggested the European Community should get a seat. Other nations, such as Argentina, Brazil, India and Nigeria, have also felt entitled to permanent, or at least semi-permanent, Security Council representation.

In addition to the five permanent members, the Security Council has 10 states that rotate for two-year terms. They are: Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Hungary, India, Japan, Morocco, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Russia is taking over former Soviet embassies around the world, but offered to represent the diplomatic interests of other members of the new commonwealth, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

As of Friday, 105 countries had recognized the Russian Federation as an independent state, said Vitaly Churkin, who held his first briefing Friday as spokesman for the Russian Ministry of Foreign Relations.

Mr. Yeltsin has emerged as the most powerful leader in the former Soviet Union, and his state

has taken over many Kremlin functions.

Mr. Churkin, the former chief spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, declined to provide details on his appointment by Mr. Yeltsin.

"I prefer not to make any personal statements," he said. But he added: "I am as amazed as most of you are by the fact that we are meeting again at a briefing."

Mr. Churkin said the foreign ministers of the 11 members of the new commonwealth will meet by Jan. 10 to discuss the status of former Soviet embassies, among other issues.

He said former Soviet embassies and missions are becoming Russian, but the foreign ministers will discuss possibly sharing former Soviet property abroad.

Russia's ambassadors are helping other former Soviet republics establish diplomatic contacts and can represent their interests if the host countries give consent, he said.

The United States has established full diplomatic relations with Russia and hopes for similar ties with five other former Soviet republics, the State Department said Friday.

Mr. Yeltsin agreed on Dec. 31 to set up full diplomatic relations with Washington, said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

Mr. Yeltsin was responding to a Dec. 25 proposal by President George Bush that six former republics — Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan — establish full diplomatic relations with the United States.

Mr. Boucher said Mr. Yeltsin responded to this proposal "formally and positively."

As for the other five, Mr. Boucher said, "although we have not received formal responses from the other states, their informal reactions have been positive."

These diplomatic changes mean that the U.N. embassy to the former Soviet Union in Moscow will now be the U.S. embassy accredited to the Russian Federation, Mr. Boucher said.

The U.S. consulate in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, "will become an embassy once we have a positive Ukrainian response" to Mr. Bush's proposal, Mr. Boucher said.

"We had plans for some time to establish posts in Alma-Ata (the capital of Kazakhstan), Yerevan (the capital of Armenia) and Minsk (The capital of Belarus)," Mr. Boucher said.

He said U.S. embassies would open in these three cities before the end of the current U.S. fiscal year, on September 30, 1992. He added an embassy would be opening in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, but he gave no date for this.

Kazakhstan Friday became the first of the former Soviet republics to apply for U.N. membership since the demise of the Soviet Union.

British ambassador David Hannay, this month's Security Council president, said an application had been received and Russian Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov said he supported it.

The council is expected to recommend acceptance next week after which a two-third vote in the General Assembly is necessary for membership.

All republics are expected to apply shortly. Russia has assumed the seat of the former Soviet Union and Ukraine and Belarus have had their own seats since the inception of the United Nations.

Russians get list of U.S. PoWs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration has given several former Soviet republics the names of more than 50 Americans missing in action (MIAs) from World War II through the Vietnam War who might have been moved to the Soviet Union, officials said Friday.

The names include Americans who fought in Asia during World War II, crews from warplanes downed near the Soviet border during the Korean War and prisoners of war taken in Vietnam, officials said.

The Defense Department has assembled a list of about 50 names of World War II and pre-Vietnam War MIAs, officials said.

"It is a list of people worth checking out," said one official, who spoke on condition of anonymity and would not release the list. "These aren't necessarily people we think are or were there."

In addition, the State Department has discussed with the former Soviet republics the cases of several Americans missing since the Vietnam War, he said.

U.S. officials feel the demise of the Soviet Union gives the United States its best chance yet to examine persistent rumors that MIAs from the Korean and Vietnam wars were moved to the Soviet Union and kept until they died.

Russian and other officials have been cooperative, promising to help follow up reported sightings, he said.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said leaders of Kazakhstan last month promised Secretary of State James Baker that U.S. embassy officials would be allowed to visit Sary Shagansk, a town where a former Vietnam War prisoner had reportedly moved.

A former air force sergeant recently told a Senate panel that 200 to 300 PoWs were taken from Vietnam to the Soviet Union in 1983.

But Air Force Capt. Susan Stredansky said the Pentagon didn't have any information to substantiate the affidavit by Terrell Minarcin, whose job was to monitor intercepted communications from Vietnam for the National Security Agency.

State Department officials are also preparing to meet next week with Oleg Kalugin, a former KGB major general who claims that at least three Americans, two in the military and one from the CIA, were interrogated by Soviets in Vietnam in 1978.

The CIA took the unusual step Friday of disputing Gen. Kalugin's contention.

The agency said two of its agents had been interrogated in Vietnam, but one was released in 1973 and the other in 1975.

Gen. Kalugin has identified the agent in charge of some interrogations as Oleg Nechiporenko, who was working in the Soviet consulate in Mexico City.

Mr. Boucher said Friday Kalugin had been cooperating with U.S. officials to try and locate Mr. Nechiporenko.

A second CIA officer was captured in South Vietnam in April 1975, the agency said, taken to Hanoi and released in October of that year.

U.S. involvement in the war ended in 1973, but its South Vietnamese allies continued to fight the Communists until Saigon fell in April 1975.

Fighting dies down in Yugoslav trouble spots

BELGRADE (R) — The big guns of Yugoslavia's warring armies fell silent on Saturday as the main battlefronts on Saturday rejected the EC's proposals to transform the federation of six republics into a loose association of independent states.

The EC peace conference broke down in December when Serbia, Croatia's main adversary, rejected the EC's proposals to transform the federation of six republics into a loose association of independent states.

Since then the EC has offered to recognize Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina on Jan. 15, if they provide assurances they will respect human and minority rights.

Serbia insists the Yugoslav state must be maintained, above all because the Serb communities in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina would otherwise be minorities in what would become independent countries.

About 6,000 people have been killed since Croatia declared its independence from the federation. The federal army and Serb irregulars have seized up to a third of Croatian land.

Representatives of more than 150 pro-Yugoslav parties signed a document Friday calling for the creation of a new, smaller Yugoslavia composed of republics and communities which do not want to secede.

The parties, mainly representing Serbs of a wide variety of persuasions from Communist to Serbian nationalist, proposed at a convention in Belgrade that all Yugoslavs should decide on the borders of the new state in a referendum.

Most speakers envisaged a new state based on Serbia, Montenegro and Serb areas in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Unlike previous negotiated truces, the new ceasefire provides for the setting up of liaison mechanisms near the battlefield to settle violations peacefully.

A question mark remains over the attitude of many of the armed groups of Serb irregulars operating in Croatia who were not party to the agreement.

But U.N. sources said a low level of violence might be tolerated by U.N. forces as long as there was no large-scale action by the Yugoslav army or the Croatian National Guard.

Chad says it has crushed rebellion, killing 425

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad's government said Saturday it had crushed a rebellion by the forces of deposed President Hissene Habre and killed 425 of his troops in fighting west of the capital.

An official communique on state radio said hundreds more rebels were wounded when government forces recaptured the town of Bol and three smaller army bases in the Lake Chad area.

"The adventurers engaged in activities against the interests of the state have been entirely destroyed, including their leaders," the communique said.

Military sources said President Idriss Deby, who with Libyan backing overthrew Mr. Habre in a lightning coup in December 1990, visited the front during the fighting.

The government said 25 of its soldiers were killed and 70 were wounded. It claimed its forces captured more than 60 vehicles, many of them all-terrain pickups adapted to desert combat, and destroyed 40 more.

Mr. Habre was reported to have remained in exile in Senegal during the conflict, which began

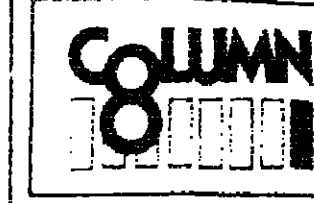
Tuesday. There was no word on the fate of Goukoni Get, a top Habre aide who was said to have led the rebellion.

France sent some 450 paratroopers to its former colony after the rebels took Bol, 150 kilometres northwest of N'Djamena, in fierce fighting Wednesday and Thursday.

The three French paratroop companies, one from France and two others from bases elsewhere in Africa, reinforced the 1,200-man French "Sparrowhawk" unit stationed in Chad and helped protect foreign nationals and property in the capital.

France did not offer the government military aid but indicated it approved of democratic reforms initiated by Mr. Deby, who has promised a return to multiparty politics next year in the vast country which has been embroiled in conflict for most of the past 25 years.

French officials in Paris confirmed Saturday that Chad government forces appeared to have checked the rebel offensive, saying the attackers were fleeing towards Niger and Nigeria.



Danish prince in trouble after New Year's party

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Crown Prince Frederik spent part of New Year's Eve in a police station after a woman friend who was driving him home from a party was stopped on suspicion of drunk driving, police said Friday.

The 23-year-old Frederik was a passenger in one of the royal cars driven by Marie Louise Aamund when they were stopped by a routine patrol in Copenhagen, the Berlingske Tidende newspaper said.

Prince Frederik accompanied Ms. Aamund, a fashion model, to a local police station where she was given an alcohol test, the report said. Police found no record of a driving license for Ms. Aamund, the paper said.

The police report mentioned that the crown prince "was heavily under the influence of alcohol," the paper said. The queen's staff issued a statement Friday, saying, "the crown prince has informed Her Majesty, Queen Margrethe II, of the incident, which he very much regrets."

The duty officer at the Nyrupsgade Police Precinct confirmed that the prince and his date arrived together at the station after midnight and that charges were being prepared against Ms. Aamund. He declined to elaborate on the case.

Members of the royal family are immune from prosecution. The incident provoked press criticism of the prince's behaviour in public and calls for his mother to discipline the heir to the throne.

Viewer complains to police about Bergman's rap

STOCKHOLM (R) — A television viewer in Sweden, where striking children is outlawed, has formally complained to police after seeing a father slap his son's face in an Ingmar Bergman drama. Police in Jonkoping in southern Sweden said the complainant, a man who was not identified, refused to accept that the scene in Good Intentions written by Bergman was justified by artistic license.

They said the man insisted that the scene breached Sweden's unique child protection laws. In one scene of the popular television series, based on the marriage of the film director's parents at the beginning of this century, Bergman's father Henrik slaps his foster son Petrus so hard that it draws blood.

German bar owner baffled by \$646 tip

DUESSELDORF, Germany (R) — A German bar owner remains baffled by a big-spending customer — did the man really leave a \$646 tip or did he just forget his change? Police said Friday the owner had handed in a 1,000-mark (\$650) note given at the bar in Gelsenkirchen last month in payment for a six-mark (\$4) bill.

They said the owner was not certain if the unknown man really knew what he was doing when he told staff to share the change as a tip.

Twins born in different years

MOUNT CLEMENS, Michigan (AP) — Katherine and Jessica Goddeke are twins, but they were born in different years. Katherine was born at 11:56 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, 1991, at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital. Jessica arrived at 12:14 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1992. "I'd like to have someone tell me the mathematical odds of that happening," said their dad, Paul Goddeke of Harrison Township in Macomb County.

Mr. Bush called Cambodia "that deeply wounded land."

It was carpet-bombed by the United States in 1973 during the Vietnam War, lost a million people to the fanatical Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979 and had been engulfed in civil war until the Paris accord.

The United States still maintains economic sanctions against Vietnam with which it has no diplomatic relations.

Mr. Bush said normal relations with Vietnam would depend on satisfactory resolution of American concerns over the fate of prisoners of war and troops missing in action.

Chinese leader's daughter finds car stolen

PEKING (R) — The daughter of Chinese paramount leader Deng Xiaoping had first-hand experience of Peking's crime problems when her friend's jeep was stolen at a year-end party. Deng Lin was a passenger in the car owned by artist friend Rong Rui, parked in the car park of the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Hotel on Dec. 29, the hotel's manager said Saturday.

Georgian opposition softens position after supporters kill 4 during rally

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — A leader of the Georgian opposition, its credibility tested by its bloody attack on a pro-government rally, backed off Saturday from demands that President Zviad Gamsakhurdia be put on trial.

Tengiz Sigua told the Associated Press the opposition would not demand Mr. Gamsakhurdia be tried, if he agrees to their demand to resign. Mr. Sigua, a former prime minister, broke with the president in August, accusing him of turning into a dictator in the wake of his landslide May election.

Sigua was named temporary prime minister Friday by the

opposition military council that has claimed control of the country after two weeks of fighting with forces loyal to the besieged Gamsakhurdia.

Opposition figures previously had insisted that Mr. Gamsakhurdia be tried. Sigua said no trial would be necessary, and said he believes the president is mentally unstable.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia has taken refuge in a bunker under the newly independent republic's mammoth parliament building. The focus of a power struggle that has claimed at least 73 people lives and laid waste to much of downtown Tbilisi.

Two more people died from wounds sustained when gunmen fired on pro-Gamsakhurdia protesters in Tbilisi Friday, bringing the toll to four dead and 34 injured, the republic's Health Ministry said Saturday.

Three of the attackers were detained and are being held inside the parliament building where President Zviad Gamsakhurdia has been holding out for almost two weeks against an armed rebellion, the ministry said Saturday.

Witnesses initially spoke of two dead among the demonstrators. Some of the protesters rounded on the gunmen and savagely beat and kicked at least one of them inside a minibus.

Cambodia assures ICRC on prisoner release

PHNOM PENH (R) — The Phnom Penh government gave assurances Saturday that it would release all political prisoners and prisoners of war in line with the peace accord ending the Cambodian civil war, a top Red Cross official said.

Jean Jacques Fresard, head of an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) mission to Cambodia, had earlier accused the government of dragging its feet on the issue after the planned release of 400 prisoners this weekend was cancelled.

Mr. Fresard said he met Foreign Minister Hor Namhong Saturday afternoon and explained why the ICRC had declined to attend the release, a move which prompted the government to call it off.

The ICRC had had no access to prisoners or details of their cases and did not want to be party to a showcase ceremony, he said.

Mr. Hor Namhong pledged the prisoners would be released but gave no date. Mr. Fresard told Reuters.

The foreign minister also promised greater co-operation with the ICRC, which is mandated to handle the releases under the peace accord signed in Paris in October.

British scientist killed in laboratory explosion

MENLO PARK, California (R) — A scientist was killed and three other men were injured in an explosion at a U.S. laboratory as they conducted tests related to nuclear "cold fusion," an energy institute said Friday.

The scientists were lifting a cigar-sized steel cylinder out of water and onto a shelf Thursday when an intense, brief blast occurred, spokeswoman Barbara Klein of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) said.

The exact cause of the explosion was unclear, but scientists speculated it may have been caused by an unstable gaseous mixture of hydrogen and oxygen.

The cold fusion theory purports to describe a method of creating energy by merging atoms in an enclosed space at room temperature.

Most scientists believe the potentially dangerous process cannot produce nuclear fusion and many deride it as a hoax.

British scientist Andrew Michael Riley, 34, was killed in the blast at the Stanford Research Institute International near San Francisco, said Mr. Klein.

Dr. Riley was project manager of the engineering group at the National Cold Fusion Institute at Utah from 1989 to 1990.

Two of the injured scientists, New Zealanders Stuart Smedley, 48, and Michael McKubre, 43, were treated in hospital for minor cuts caused by flying glass and metal.

The third injured man, British scientist and EPRI employee Steven Crouch-Baker, was treated at the scene.

The explosion happened when one of the scientists tried to open a valve that had been stuck in a cylinder that contained a material called deuterium, said Rick Reed of the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services.

Bush announces trade, naval pact with Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — U.S. President George Bush announced a new trade treaty with Singapore Saturday and an agreement in principle with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong for moving a naval logistic unit to the island nation from the Philippines.

Mr. Bush, on a 12-day tour of four Asia-Pacific countries, also called for stronger economic and security ties with South East Asia to adjust to a world driven more by financial competition than military rivalry.

The treaty would make U.S. investment more attractive by making it easier to repatriate profits.

Mr. Bush lifted a U.S. trade embargo on Cambodia, imposed in 1975, to encourage democratic change there and help heal lingering wounds from the Vietnam war.

The moves reflected a U.S. adjustment to new realities brought about by the end of the cold war and the demise of the Soviet Union, as well as Mr. Bush's effort to avert a power vacuum in East Asia and the emergence of rival world trading blocs.

"An unstable Asia burdened with repression does not serve our interest," Mr. Bush said in a speech to Singapore business and

civic leaders.

"We need you as free and productive as you can be, and we understand that our security presence can provide a foundation for our mutual prosperity and shared defence," he said.

The scheduled U.S. withdrawal from Subic Bay in the Philippines this year has raised fears in the region that the United States might retreat militarily and economically, leaving Japan and China as chief power brokers.

"All of us need America as a partner in our economies to help balance the growing presence of Japan," Mr. Goh told a luncheon in Mr. Bush's honour.

"An even stronger reason for America to remain a major player in our economies is that we want America to maintain a security presence without which we will be sailing into uncharted waters," he said.

The Philippine Senate last year rejected an agreement that would have renewed the U.S. lease at Subic Bay, its largest military base in Asia.

Headquartering a key element of the Seventh Fleet in Singapore would be more symbolic than substantive. Command Task Force 73, a unit that supervises repair and resupply of American warships, has fewer than 200 personnel.

But the United States hopes to

use the arrangement as a model for similar access to ports and airstrips in countries like Thailand and Malaysia.

Diplomats said there were fears that a relocation to Singapore of U.S. Naval Forces would create tensions in nearby South East Asian countries.

In the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, more than 100 members of an Islamic opposition party staged a peaceful demonstration against the plans outside the U.S. embassy. Some chanted "Allah is great" and "destroy the U.S."

The Malaysian government has so far not commented on the plans. It is studying a U.S. request to use repair facilities at its Lumut Dockyard along the Straits of Malacca.

"By working cooperatively we better share the security responsibilities of the post-cold war era," Mr. Bush said.

He said the U.S. military presence in the region "may be different than it has been in the past ... but we are going to maintain, with the welcome of our friends in the region, a security presence here."

Mr. Bush's lifting of the trade embargo against Cambodia, which would not initially amount to much commerce, underlined U.S. support for a peace accord signed in Paris in October be-

tween the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government and three guerrilla rivals.

The embargo had been in place since April 1975 when Khmer Rouge rebels drove the pro-Western government from power.

Mr. Bush called Cambodia "that deeply wounded land."

It was carpet-bombed by the United States in 1973 during the Vietnam War, lost a million people to the fanatical Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979 and had been engulfed in civil war until the Paris accord.

The United States still maintains economic sanctions against Vietnam with which it has no diplomatic relations.

Mr. Bush said normal relations with Vietnam would depend on satisfactory resolution of American concerns over the fate of prisoners of war and troops missing in action.

"The key point is this: 'After being strong, determined, and patient, we finally can entertain realistic hopes of building lasting ties of interest and affection with Indochina,'" Mr. Bush said.

Having visited Australia, Mr. Bush leaves Singapore for South Korea Sunday before heading Tuesday for a four-day visit to Japan that is expected to be dominated by trade issues.